

Mt.6.5-8 “Praying Without Hypocrisy”
Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #75
April 19, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

Doing the right thing the right way - 6.1-8; 16-18

- Give, but not to **boast** vv.1-4;
- Pray, but not to **impress** vv.5-8;
- Fast, but not for **show** vv.16-18

I. THE AUDIENCE OF PRAYER

A. THE FALSE AUDIENCE: OTHER PEOPLE v.5

No other people, so **favored** by God or had such direct communication with Him.

Faults in Jewish prayer life:

One - Prayer **had become ritualized**

Two - **Prescribed prayers for every object & every occasion**

- The original intent was to bring every **aspect of life** into the presence of God;

Three - The practice of **limiting prayer to specific times & occasions**

Four - **Esteeming long prayers,**

- Ancient rabbis said longer prayers were more likely heard & **heeded** by God:
 - ❖ Verbosity was confused with **meaning**,
 - ❖ Length was confused with **sincerity**.

Five - **Meaningless repetitions,**

- Wanting to be seen & heard by **other** people was the worst fault.
- This fault is intrinsically **evil**.
- It came from & was intended to **satisfy** pride.
- Prayer that focuses on **self** is always hypocritical.
- By definition, the **focus** of every prayer should be on God.

Nothing is so sacred that Satan will not invade it:

- The more **sacred** something is, the more he desires to profane it;
- Few things please him more than to **come** between believers & their Lord in the intimacy of prayer;
- Sin will follow us into the very **presence** of God;
- No sin is more powerful or destructive than **pride**;
- As always, the sin began in the **heart**;

CONCLUSION:

They were concerned only about the reward **men** could give...
...that is all the reward they received.