

New Faith Church

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Handout: The Significance of Prayer During Lent

Matthew 6:5-15

Theme: *Commitment to Prayer During Lent*

I. The Posture of Prayer (Matthew 6:5-6)

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites...”

Key Truth: Prayer is About Sincerity, Not Spectacle

- The Pharisees prayed to impress people, not to seek God.
- Greek word: ὑποκριτής (hypokritēs) – An actor, a stage performer who puts on a show.
- Jesus calls for private, personal communion with God (ταμεῖον, tameion – a secret place).

If your prayer life is about impressing people, that’s all the reward you’ll get. But if it’s about seeking God, He will reward you in ways people cannot.

Application: Check Your Prayer Motives

- Are you praying for applause, or are you praying for access?
- Are you talking to God, or just talking about God?

II. The Power of Kingdom-Focused Prayer (Matthew 6:7-10)

“Do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words...”

Key Truth: Prayer is About Alignment, Not Manipulation

- Greek word: βαττολογέω (battalogo) – Meaningless, repetitive babbling.
- Jesus says: Prayer is not about many words; it’s about a surrendered heart.
- Kingdom prayer shifts from “God, give me what I want” to “God, let me want what You give.”

Your Father already knows what you need—so prayer is about trusting Him, not informing Him.

Application: Kingdom Prayer Questions

- Am I praying for my kingdom or God’s kingdom?
- Am I trying to bend God’s will or align with His plan?

III. The Practice of Forgiving Prayer (Matthew 6:11-15)

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Key Truth: Prayer Requires Releasing What We Hold Onto

- Jewish law was about justice—Jesus calls for grace.
- Greek word: ὀφειλήματα (opheilēmata) – Debts, moral failings, offenses.
- You cannot receive grace from God while refusing to give it to others.

Forgiveness is not optional—it’s a kingdom requirement.

Application: Questions for Lent

- Am I holding on to a grudge God is asking me to release?
- Have I forgiven myself the way God has forgiven me?

Conclusion: A Lenten Commitment to Prayer

- Lent is a time for deeper, more meaningful prayer.

1 Pray with authenticity – Find your inner room with God.

2 Pray with alignment – Seek His will, not just yours.

3 Pray with forgiveness – Let go of the past and walk in grace.

Declaration: “Lord, teach me to pray!”

Let's commit to powerful, kingdom-driven prayer this Lent!