

Points to Powder - Discussion questions from Sunday's Message

By Steve Hauser

Lord, teach us to pray.
Pastor Mark Johnson

Text: Matthew 6:5-13

Summary: Within the Sermon on the Mount Jesus contrasts the righteous and the self-righteous.

I. First model of prayer: Model of the Pharisees. (Matt 6:5-6)

- The Pharisees prayed in front of others in order to impress the people.
- The Pharisees stood on street corners to be seen as righteous. Do we attend church to be seen as righteous? Do we put on our “Christian clothes” and behave in a different manner on Sunday than the rest of the week.

II. Second model of prayer: Model of Pagans. (Matt 6:7-8)

- The pagans pray rote prayers which have lost any meaning. They also believed that they could bind their gods to get what they want.
- Have we fallen into the habit of the same prayer at meals, or in the evening or morning? What is the motive of our prayer life? What is our understanding of prayer? How is that understanding biblically based?

III. Third model of prayer: Christ's example. (Matt. 6:9)

- Start prayer by putting God first. Jesus began the prayer by using an intimate term, “Abba” which was an intimate word a child would use to of one's father.
- Do we put God first in our prayer life? Are our prayers that of a child to their father or do we hold God at arm's length? Does the intimacy of our relationship demonstrated in our prayer life?
- What does “hallowed be your name” mean? When we say the Lord's prayer, do we consider whether we are living the life that brings glory to Jesus.
- Jews were seeking a restoration of their kingdom. When we pray “your kingdom come” what are we seeking?
- When we pray “your will be done” do we truly mean it, or do we mean God's will that conforms to my will?

