

# Radical Simplicity

*Real is Right*

September 4, 2016

Matt. 6:5 - 15

## **I. The Real Purpose of Prayer (vs. 5 - 8)**

- A. “Acts of Righteous” (vs 1) - public/corporate acts of community
- B. “When you pray... (vs. 5, 6, 7, 9) - prayer is not optional
- C. Corporate (community) prayer is powerful! (Joel 1:14; Neh. 9; Jonah 3; Isa. 56:7; Est. 4; Acts 1:14,24,2:1,4:24,31,6:6,12:1-11,13:1-2,16:25)
- D. Prayer had become complex and religious
  - 1. Called to pray three times a day (morning, mid-day, evening)
  - 2. Used ritual prayers - with many complex accessories
  - 3. “Love” to stand praying - to be seen of men (vs. 5)
  - 4. “...babbling like pagans” - many repetitions of words (vs. 7)
- E. An audience of ONE
  - 1. Go into your inner place (tameion) - place where your treasure is stored - (Matt. 6:23)
  - 2. Prayer “to your Father” (vs. 6) - The purpose of prayer is communion with God
  - 3. “Your Father knows what you need” - The purpose of prayer is submission to God

## **II. The Real Pattern of Prayer (vs. 9 - 13)**

- A. This then is “how you should pray” - how not what (not a prescription)
- B. “Our Father” - “in heaven” - Imminent and Transcendent
- C. Praising and submitting:
  - 1. “Hallowed”
  - 2. “Your Kingdom”
  - 3. “Your will”
- D. Praising and depending:
  - 1. “Give us” (present)
  - 2. “Forgive us” (past) (aphiemi = to keep no longer)
  - 3. “Lead us...Deliver us” (future)

## **III. The Real Heart of Prayer (vs. 14,15)**

- A. “If you forgive” - (then) “your heavenly Father will also forgive”.
- B. “If you do not forgive”

## **IV. K. I. S. S. (Keep It Simple Saints)**

- 1. Beware of changing your voice or words in public - Real is right!
- 2. Beware of “gossip” prayer - Real is right!
- 3. Pray to The Father not to men - Real is right!
- 4. Public piety flows out of private piety! - Real is right!
- 5. Praying as a community rather than individuals! - Real is right!
- 6. Praise God and His purposes before petitioning God for our provisions! - Real is right!
- 7. Unforgiveness is the hinge of prayer - Real is right!