

PRAYER

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

MATT 6:5-15
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Not as the Hypocrites

Mk 12:38 In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, **39** and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, **40** who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."

Keys to the Kingdom

Introduction	<i>Prayer - 6:5-15</i>
Attitude - 5:1-12	Self-Denial - 6:16-18
Influence - 5:13-16	Investment - 6:19-24
Self-Control - 5:17-30	Preoccupation - 6:25-34
Faithfulness - 5:31-37	Discernment - 7:1-12
Response-Ability - 5:38-42	Direction - 7:13-14
Love - 5:43-48	Obedience - 7:15-23
Generosity - 6:1-4	Action - 7:24-27

Not as the Hypocrites

Mt 23:5-12 Woe!

Mt 23:5 "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments."

Phylacteries?

Not as the Hypocrites

"They love to pray." Anything wrong with that?
Outwardly, officially, and ostensibly to God, but ...
Inwardly, really, to get man's attention and praise.
Hypo (under) + *krites* (mask) = Gk. play actors.
They pray to prey! To promote and publicize self.
The reward they seek is the *only* reward they get.

Phylacteries

Small square leather boxes or cases. Each held four strips of parchment inscribed with quotations from the books of the Law. Worn by every male Israelite above 13 years of age during morning prayer, except on Sabbaths and holidays.

Ex 13:1-10; 13:11-16; Dt 6:4-9; 11:13-21

"... bind them on your hand, on your forehead ..."

Not as the Gentiles

Praying by rote, routine, ritual, and repetition.
Multiplying vain, empty, meaningless words.
Expecting to be heard due to their prayers' length.

2. Reverence

"... in heaven, hallowed be Your name."
Balance: near as Father, yet above and set apart.
Worthy of awe, wonder, adoration, amazement.
We bow. We tremble. We obey. We surrender.
God's name = His identity, character, person.
"I revere You because -" "Because I revere You -"

Instead –

Pray sincerely. Not for show.
Pray secretly. In your closet.
Pray simply. No words to impress.
Pray spiritually. To God and *for* God.

3. Submission

"... Your kingdom come, Your will be done ..."
Parallel phrases. The second interprets the first.
God's Kingdom = God's rule. His will = His desire.
Domain and dominion. Realm and reign.
Church: the people God rules. Matt 16:16-18
"Father, rule my heart, marriage, work, money ..."

1. Intimacy

"Our Father ..."
Why not Creator, King, Master, Judge?
Accessible. Wise. Powerful. Protective. Nurturing.
Authoritative. Instructive. Role model. Head.
Rom 8:14-17, esp. 8:15; Gal 4:6-7. "Abba."
"Because You are my Father I ..."

4. Petition

"Give us each day our daily bread."
Requests follow intimacy, reverence, submission.
Nothing is too small or trivial.
Possible reference to manna, given daily.
Pray for God to give you what you work to gain.
"Father God, just for today ..." Strength, joy, etc.

5. Contrition

"And forgive us our debts ..."

Obligations resulting from our misdeeds.

We hear: "Prisoner paid his debt to society."

Sin costs. We owe. We confess. God pardons.

Dismiss, let go, send away, remit. Ac 2:38

"I beg You, cancel the valid charges against me."

8. Security

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." (Not in all Gk. manuscripts.)

Yours is the kingdom. Reign in me!

Yours is the power. Work in me!

Yours is the glory. Shine in me!

6. Condition

"... as we also have forgiven our debtors."

"As" = in like manner, to the same extent.

If you have not forgiven, God will not forgive you.

You and I cannot afford not to forgive!

The unforgiver is unforgiven. Mt 18:21-35

"Father, I have forgiven _____ for _____."

In His Own Words

Lk 22:40 When He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." **41** And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, **42** saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

Intimacy. Submission. Petition. Dependence.

7. Dependence

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Parallel phrases. The second interprets the first.

"Do not take us where we would be tempted."

"That is, keep us away, protect us from evil."

"Father, steer me clear of _____."