

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Prayer in Christ's Kingdom (Matthew 6:7-15)*

**Summary:** King Jesus makes the way for you to call upon God, as your Father. So pray by grace, for His glory, for your needs, and for your transformation.

**Key Point:** Approach God with genuine reverence; but remember: He is your loving Father who commands you to bring your needs to Him.

## **Kingdom Prayer**

### **1. Keep it Short (vv. 7-8)**

- In verse 7 Jesus tells us to avoid “empty phrases” (meaningless repetition - NASB) when praying. What do you think is meant by this? Give examples of these kinds of prayers.
- Are there times when you are more prone toward meaningless repetition in your prayer time? What can you do to avoid this?
- Give examples of genuine prayers from scripture? What common characteristics do they share?
- Verse 8 states that “Your Father knows what you need before you ask.” Why do you think Jesus uses this statement as a deterrent for mindless repetition while praying? (See Romans 8:32 and Luke 11:13)

### **2. Keep it SWEET (vv. 9-13)**

*Pray for: Sanctifying of His Name; that His Will be done; Every day physical needs; Every day spiritual needs; rescue from Temptation.*

- The mindless repeating of the Lord's Prayer by rote (often done in Catholic churches) is a clear example of what Jesus was warning against in verse 7. What is the key phrase in the first part of Jesus' command in verse 9 that discourages verbatim repetition?
- How can we practically pray for God's name to be “hallowed”? What is another word that you would use in place of “hallowed”?
- How can we pray for God's reign to be more apparent in our lives? .... in the lives of others (friends, family, etc.)?
- What is meant by the word “debts” in verse 12?
- Read 1 John 1:9. Why is it important to recognize and genuinely confess our sins before God?
- Which aspect of the model prayer is often overlooked in your prayer life? Why do you think this is?

### **3. Keep it Real (vv. 14-15)**

*“The realities we pray about should not just come out of our lips; they should come out of our lives.” -RZ*

- Is there someone that has harmed you in the past that you haven't fully forgiven?
  - Consider the magnitude of your sin debt before a Holy God; and reflect on the mercy and forgiveness that He has graciously shown you (Eph 2:1-4; 1 Peter 1:3; Psalm 103:12).
  - Pray that God would help you to extend the same mercy and forgiveness to others who have offended you (and will offend you).