C:\Users\Gregg & Tonya Shaw\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\4O56TBXA\MC900097247[1].wmfLesson # 8

Matt 6:5-15, 7:7-12

The entire sixth chapter expounds upon the "righteousness of the kingdom" with respect to man's relation to God, especially in the practice of certain "acts" of righteousness. Remember that verse 1 provides an introductory statement concerning all acts of righteousness: "Take heed that you do not do them before man, to be seen by them." We have seen this principle applied to charitable deeds, now we shall consider how Jesus applied it to the practice of prayer.

*What NOT to do.... The Pharisees loved to pray but they did not love God.*

1. The Pharisees' sin was not only indifference to God, but what else?

2. It sounds to me like Jesus is advising us not to pray in public, especially taking into account verse 6. Do you agree? Disagree? Please explain!

*Think - think - think....*

3. Even if we "go into our closet" and pray we can still fall prey to that of the Pharisees by doing what? Think back to our last lesson #25.

4. Jesus said we will have our reward for behavior like this. What is it?

*Elements of proper prayer*

5. Verses 7-8 are very revealing especially in regards to our public prayers. List several lessons or points we can learn from these verses *besides the obvious*!

6. If God knows what we need and wants to give it, why doesn't He simply provide it without our asking? Doesn't this make the command to pray seem random, and risks leaving the impression that God just enjoys seeing us beg for our needs?

7. Many people think that Jesus wants us to repeat this prayer in verses 9-13. After all it is the "Lord's prayer." How do we know this is not what He intended but merely an example?

8. List the things you notice or take away from Jesus' prayer example that we should pattern our prayers after.