

Review

What was your main take-a-way from this weekend's sermon? Why? Share this with your group.

Discuss

1) For this series the theme we will continue to return to is "receiving and releasing." The idea is to approach prayer with the expectations that God is present and that we can listen and receive, and speak and release to Him.

When it comes to prayer what are your biggest misunderstandings of it?
Also, what does your prayer life look like? What prayer rhythms do you have?

2) In Matthew 6:5&6 and then 7&8 Jesus is showing two different examples of prayers which are transactional. Look at these two passages...

What are the two examples that Jesus gives?
From time to time we all approach God transactionally...why do we do this?

3) The most important thing we bring into prayer is a correct view of God. If we have a wrong view of God, then we will have a wrong view of prayer. In verse 9, Jesus defines who God is as our Father...

- a) What image do you carry of your earthly father? And how does that have impact on your view of God as Father?
- b) Jesus says Our Father *is in heaven*...How does *in heaven* describe who God is?
- c) Jesus says Our Father...*hallowed be your name*...What does hallowed mean? And what does it really look like that God is set apart, that there is no one like this one?

Response

Not only does Jesus talk about praying in public, but He also talks about, "going to your room, shutting the door, and praying alone to God." This is a sacred time and place. Find a place and time (create a rhythm) this week to spend in prayer to God.

Two things: when you are alone, try praying out loud, and two use the title "Dad" for God as you enter into your prayer time.

You are a son and daughter of God.