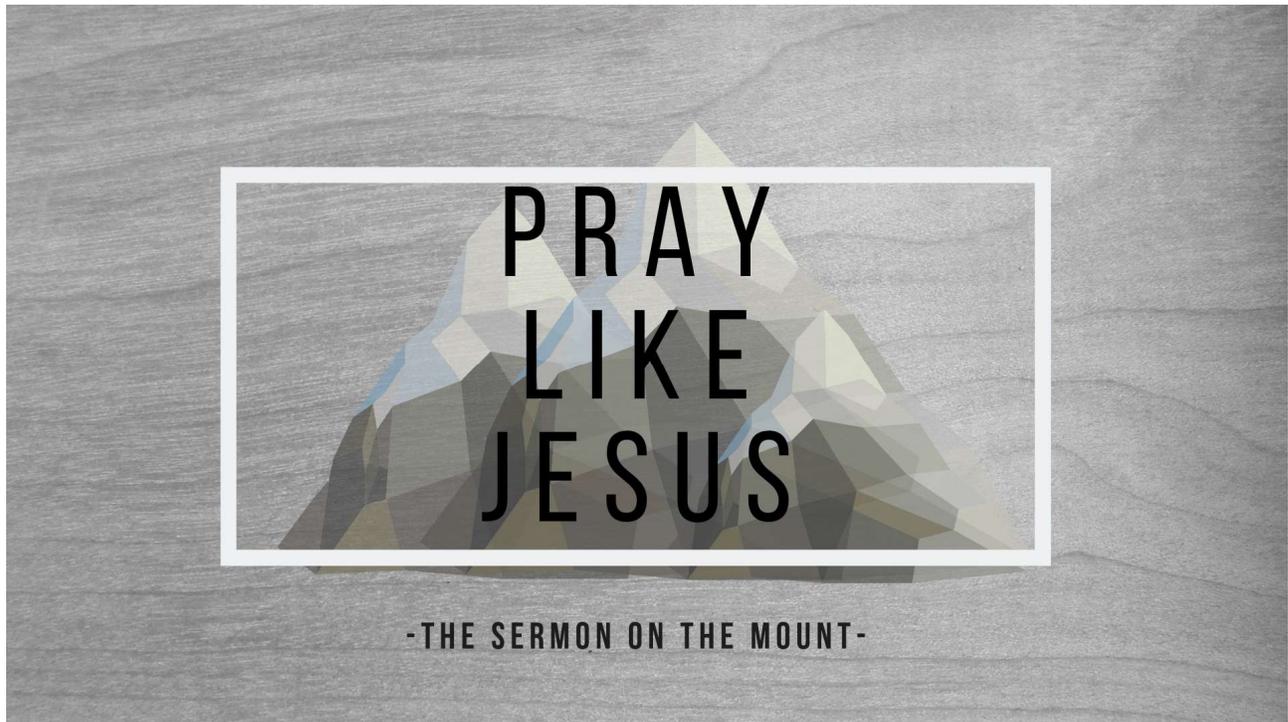


February 24, 2019



Preparing to Pray

Matthew 6:5-8

Series Summary

Have you ever wanted to have a more vibrant prayer life? Many Christians would like to develop a more intimate prayer life but simply do not know where to start. This series will focus on helping you learn to take your prayer life to the next level by learning to “**Pray Like Jesus.**” We will examine how Jesus taught His disciples to pray and how this applies to your life today.

Main Passage

Matthew 6:5-8 (ESV) – ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

**Big Idea – Slow Down and Make Room for God Today...
Approach Him with a Heart of Humility**

Three Elements of Preparing to Pray God's Way

Element #1 – Sincerity: Approach the Lord with a Sincere Heart and an Eager Pursuit of His Will

Matthew 6:5 (ESV) – ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Element #2 – Intimacy: Eliminate the Distractions that Derail You from Entering God's Presence

Matthew 6:6 (ESV) – ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Element #3 – Intentionality: Make the Priority of Prayer Less About the Quantity of Your Words and More About the Quality of Your Pursuit

Matthew 6:7-8 (ESV) – ⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 15:29 (ESV) – The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Challenge:

You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group, (2) Participating in a Sunday School class, or (3) Study through the prayer guide found at the Connection Point.