



Hardest Prayer You'll Ever Pray...

WEEK 1 • "WHAT HARD PRAYING ISN'T"

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. 6 But 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. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

—Matthew 6:5-15, ESV

Jesus' Presupposition: People _____.

It's Bumper Sticker Theology. Everyone _____.

Jesus begins this teaching, " _____ "

NOT _____, NOT something new called _____, BUT, _____ you pray.

At the outset we must acknowledge that this is instruction on a universal activity for creatures created in God's image, created for communion with Him, created for fellowship with him and engaged in relational dialogue. Jesus' instructions for intimacy with God begins with his teaching on what NOT to do WHEN you do it.

WHY DOES JESUS HAVE TO TELL US WHAT NOT TO DO?

Genesis 6:5 (NIV), " _____ "

of _____

of _____ are

only _____

all the _____ !

HARD PRAYING ISN'T LIKE the _____ OR the _____!

1.) Hard Praying ISN'T like the Hypocrites!

_____ is the Key!

2.) Hard Praying ISN'T like the Pagans!

_____ for the sake of _____!

Speaker & Audience re-orientation! Know your audience! Hard praying isn't directed TOWARD man and hard praying isn't words piled on top of words!

WHAT @ YOUR PRAYERS?

Jesus summarizes (v.8), "Don't be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Two words change everything: _____

Hard Praying isn't like the HYPOCRITES or PAGANS because they pray like _____!

**HARD PRAYING IS DONE BY CHILDREN TALKING TO A FATHER WHO
ALREADY KNOWS WHAT THEY NEED.**

NEXT WEEK: *Who is Hard Praying directed to?*