



In our last study, we heard an important warning from Jesus:

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be \_\_\_\_\_ by them, for then you will have \_\_\_\_\_ reward from your Father who is in heaven.”  
(Matt 6:1)

He even gave us a few examples of “practicing” righteousness in areas where it could be easy to lose our aim and be more concerned with the attention of the people around us than the attention and praise of our Father in heaven:

- 6:2-4: when you \_\_\_\_\_ to the needy
- 6:5-6: when you \_\_\_\_\_
- 6:16-18: when you \_\_\_\_\_

But right in the middle of that warning, Jesus taught his disciples some valuable things about prayer. Let’s listen in:

“And when you pray, do not heap up \_\_\_\_\_ phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father \_\_\_\_\_ what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
\_\_\_\_\_ be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this \_\_\_\_\_ our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into \_\_\_\_\_,  
but deliver us from evil.

For if you \_\_\_\_\_ others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive \_\_\_\_\_ trespasses.” (6:7-15)

The prayers of Jesus’ disciples are to be thoughtful and reverent. Why? What will that look like in the 21st century? What do we need to remember even this week? Let’s dig in...



# For Class & Family Discussion:

1. Why would Jesus identify some who pray as “hypocrites” (6:5)? What does that word mean and how can we be guilty of hypocrisy in prayer?
2. Let’s take another look at Matthew 6:6. What is Jesus teaching us about our Father in heaven? What is he teaching us about prayer? Does that mean we should never pray in the presence or hearing of other people?
3. In your own words, what does it mean to “heap up empty phrases” in prayer? Why is that not a good thing?
4. If God already knows what we need before we ask him, why should we even bother with prayer?
5. Let’s take some time to think through the phrases in 6:9-13. What do we need to see, understand, and appreciate?
  - “Our Father in heaven” -
  - “Hallowed be your name” -
  - “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” -
  - “Give us this day our daily bread” -
  - “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” -
  - “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” -
6. How has Jesus equipped and encouraged us for the week ahead?