

14 October 2012: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **Sermon On The Mount (Part 6): The Christian and his Prayer**

Scripture Text: Matthew 6:5-18

1. In v.5-8, the Lord Jesus taught us prayers that we ought to avoid. First, we should not pray to be seen of men and for men to hear our prayers. This is a wrong sinful motive. Sometimes we want to catch the attention of men in our prayers or we become so concern with our English sentence structure in our prayers as we want others to think well of us in our prayers.

2. Another wrong way of prayer is vain repetitions (v.7). This is meaningless utterance without any thoughts as we think that God is moved by the many times we repeat a same sentence in prayer. We should never use prayers to bargain or bribe God. Prayer is simply pouring of our hearts to God. In v.8, we are taught that prayer is for our benefits as God already knows all our needs before we pray. We pray because we need God and depend on Him every day.

3. The right prayers to follow is taught in v.9-15 in the Lord's prayer. We must pray as follows:

a) Bring glory to God - this must always be the purpose of our prayers and anything we ask of God in prayers.

b) According to the will of God - we do not pray just to have God's stamp of approval for what we want to do.

c) In faith - we need to trust God for our daily bread that He will provide one day at a time.

d) Forgiving others - we pray for God's forgiveness and this must lead us to forgive others.

e) Strength not to succumb to temptations

4. From v.16-18, the Lord Jesus similarly taught us that fasting is not for men to see. We fast because we want an uninterrupted time with God in prayer. Fasting is always a companion to prayers.