

I. Review SOTM

A. Beatitudes - Jesus starts this Sermon by exhorting us to cultivate eight heart conditions that He carries. These are given as the purpose and context of the rest of the sermon. (Ex. 34:6-8; Mat. 11:29; 1 Cor. 2:6-16)

1. Poor In Spirit
2. Mourning for the Kingdom
3. Meekness
4. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness
5. Merciful
6. Pure in Heart
7. Peacemakers
8. Enduring Persecution

B. Jesus reveals 6 Hindrances our transformation in the beatitudes then reveals 4 Positioners as He implores us to grow in intimacy with Him and be transformed by His beauty. (Mat. 25:1-4)

1. Hindrances - Six Aspects of the Fallen Heart or Old Man produce death in the garden of our heart. (Mat. 5:21-48)
 - a. Spirit of Murder
 - b. Spirit of Covetousness
 - c. Spirit of Treachery
 - d. Spirit of Manipulation
 - e. Spirit of Revenge
 - f. Spirit of Animosity
2. Positioners - Four activities that position us to encounter Jesus and receive rewards from our Father. (Mat. 6:1-34)
 - a. Charitable Deeds (Giving of yourself for the gain of others)
 - b. Prayer (Meditation, Intercession, Worship and Conversation)
 - c. Fasting (Prioritizing Spiritual Food over Physical Food)
 - d. Giving (Prioritizing our Spiritual Security over Physical Security)

“Encountering God” is when the Holy Spirit reveals truth about God to your spirit. In turn this truth must be understood or comprehended by you through the work of the Holy Spirit to the level that it moves and transforms your heart in love. (Jhn. 16:14-15, 17:20-26; 1 Cor. 2:9-14)

If you position your heart God will release His presence – Mike Bickle

II. Positioning to Encounter God through the activity of Prayer (Mat. 6:5-8)

A. Jesus starts out theme of the activity of prayer as a lifestyle by stating the same two exhortations as the previous call to give ourselves to charitable deeds.

1. Do this activity before your Fathers eyes - (Is. 30:18-19)

2. Pursue a reward from the Father – (Ps. 36:7-10)

B. When you Pray – Sadly the use of this word has been reduced for many believers to mean only the act of intercessory prayer lists or agendas. The word translated pray in the new testament refers to multiple modes of communicating with God including but not limited to various forms of worship, singing, declaring, inquiring, and interceding. (Jhn. 17:1-26)

1. Psalms from the House of Prayer – I believe one of the clearest roadmaps to what true prayer looks like is found in the book of psalms. The psalms are multifaceted conversational songs that were sung and spoken in King David's 24/7 prayer meetings.

- a. Praise – (Ps. 145)
- b. Awe and Wonder – (Ps. 8)
- c. Declaration of Gods nature and character. (Ps 111)
- d. Declaration of Gods current promises (Ps. 91)
- e. Declaration of Gods future prophetic promises (Ps. 110)
- f. Remembrance (Ps. 106)
- g. Mourning – (Ps. 6)
- h. Thanksgiving – (Ps. 30)
- i. Intercession – (Ps. 28)
- j. Confession of weakness and sin (Ps. 51)
- k. Sharing of feelings and thoughts (Ps. 143)

2. Praying Church – God created us in such a way as to need to pray together and individually in to experience the fullness of encountering Him. This is the clear exhortation and model that Jesus gave us concerning a lifestyle of prayer.

- a. Individual Prayer Life – (Lk. 3:21, 5:16, 6:12, 9:18; 22:39-45)
- b. Family Unit Prayer Life - (Josh 24:15; Pr. 22:6; Acts. 10:2, 16:31 Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:8)
- c. Corporate Body Prayer Life - (Lk. 9:28; Acts 1:14, 2:42, 12:12; 2 Cor. 1:11)

3. Teach us to Pray – What is the proper weight we should give to the truth that the only thing the disciples asked Jesus to teach them more than once is for Him to “Teach us how to pray”. (Lk.

C. Love to pray when they are heard by men – Jesus warns us that we will have a tendency to engage publicly and have our eyes on ourselves when it comes to prayer and neglect the prayer of the secret place with our eyes on Him.

D. Your Father knows what you need – Jesus tells us that we are heard by our Father and He already knows what we need before we ask. Jesus did not say that because He does not want us to ask, rather He wants to assure our hearts that we are heard by our Father even when our prayers are weak and we don’t know the words to say.

1. Testimonies of Encountering Jesus through Prayer