

Sermon Discussion Questions, February 28, 2010, Dr. Rod MacIlvaine
“The One Prayer You Simply Must Know, Pt.1” Matthew 6:5-13

1. Read Matthew 6: 5 and Matthew 23:14, how was prayer misused in these verses? What did Jesus call these people and how did he describe their motives? What lessons do we learn from Jesus’ words? What are ways we misuse prayer? What are proper motives for our prayer?
2. What did Jesus warn the people against in Matthew 6:7 (read Ecclesiastes 5:2 and I Kings 18:26, 29 for more insight)? What non-Christian prayer patterns are prevalent in the world today? What is the danger in these practices?
3. What are wrong prayer practices that well meaning Christians engage in today? Why is negative self-talk inappropriate during times of prayer. Give examples of how to turn negative self-talk into bold affirmations of truth about the Lord. For insight read: Psalm 22:6-31; 38.
4. Read Matthew 6:9. How did Jesus tell us to address God in our prayers? What would the term, “father” mean to people during biblical times? How does pop culture portray images of fathers? How could your own fatherhood image affect your concept of God? How does this title for God influence your prayer life?
5. Reread Matthew 6:9. What does the word “our” imply about our prayer practices? What are the benefits of praying in community? Matthew 18:20, Luke 11:1
What else does Jesus teach us about our prayer life? Matthew 6:6, 2 Kings 4:33
Where is your favorite place to pray? Why?
6. How many times does Jesus use the word “Your” in Matthew 6:9c-10? To whom is “Your” referring?

How are the phrases, “Your name” and “Your kingdom” bound together?

Malachi 1:11

2 Peter 3:12

I Corinthians 16:22

Revelation 22:20

How can your life and your specific prayer requests make God’s name great, as well as, spread kingdom virtues and values?

7. Why do you think God’s will is hard to determine? When will God’s perfect will actually be accomplished on earth? Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 21:1-5
8. Based on Matthew 6: 5-10, who should come first in our prayers? Why should we take intercession seriously? As a result of what you have learned, how will your prayer life be different this week?