

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Matthew 6:5-7

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Where do you do your praying? Do you jump up and down waving your hands around where you can be seen or are you a quiet prayer, who settles down in a quiet room to speak to God himself not showing off to people around you. There are times when you can be carried away, when you are praying with others such as at a big gathering, and be moved to show just how much joy is in your heart. But it is when you are alone or with a few friends that the quiet prayer has deep feeling and an even closer relationship with God. Have you gone into a small room away from everyone to pray? Sometimes we need to do that, just as Jesus went away from the crowds to have time to speak with his father alone and to listen to his word. Jesus teaches the way to prayer almost as a secret or not to be shared with anyone else.

But this is when Jesus explains about what is really expected of us as Christians, how to use our time, talents, and money for the church. These are the normal things that we do today for our churches. But of course there are still some who want to be at the front to be seen as a better Christian than their neighbour. Or making huge gifts to the church that make them stand out just how religious they are that they can give such big gifts, this is not what Jesus teaches. He told his followers to go into a dark room to pray, so as not to show off. Instead we have to focus on God himself. In praise and thanks for all he does for us. When we speak to our Heavenly Father we speak to him truthfully and with love just as he does with us. We give him the glory and praise due to him. And we will see our rewards given, as quietly as our prayers are heard. It's as the words of the hymn Tell me the old old story of Jesus and his love, tell me the story slowly so I can take it in. Let us listen for God talking to us as we talk to him. Listen with our hearts. and we will surely receive his word to ourselves.

Prayer

Father in heaven, help us to listen out for you, help us to speak to you every day anywhere we can be with you. Amen.