

Matthew 6:5-8

## Do You Pray Like an Actor?

(Outline by John MacArthur, Jr.)

This is the second of three illustrations Jesus uses to highlight how we can turn good things into \_\_\_\_\_ acts. "Prayer is simply seen as lining up with what He has already determined that He will do and, from another perspective, beseeching God to do what He otherwise would not do."

### I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer 6:5

We have to realize that the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer can be false as well as true. William Barclay, an author from long ago, thought there were at least 6 faults that had crept into Judaism regarding prayer: Prayer had become \_\_\_\_\_, the development of prescribed prayers for every seeming occasion, specific times for \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayers, the use of \_\_\_\_\_ and last was they wanted \_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer that focuses in any way on \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. In effect, we are \_\_\_\_\_,

portraying an image we hope to create. Praying with our focus entirely on Jehovah is \_\_\_\_\_. Remember the two most intense times of spiritual opposition for Jesus was when he was \_\_\_\_\_.

Notice the phrase "standing in the synagogue." The trouble is not standing, or even praying, but "in order to be \_\_\_\_\_." So the \_\_\_\_\_ audience is \_\_\_\_\_, while the true is \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer 6:6-8

There's also a false and a true \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer. In using meaningless repetition, Jesus refers to what was common in the pagan religions. The gentiles as well had the opinion that the length of prayer equated \_\_\_\_\_. They thought the pagan deity had to be basically be \_\_\_\_\_ first. Jesus was not forbidding repetition but the \_\_\_\_\_ repetition.

The most important thing to remember is that the Father already \_\_\_\_\_ your need before you even ask.

Martyn Lloyd Jones had three profound points worth considering when we pray:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Approaching God means I must \_\_\_\_\_ certain things. I must realize that I am entering the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_. I have to \_\_\_\_\_ myself out to everything else.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I have to realize that Who He is and What He is. When I pause and reflect on His person, how, when and what I pray should reflect this.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 4:16 states that we can approach the throne of God with boldness. Jones said we can come with the simple confidence of a child.