

DIGGING DEEPER

Series: CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
Sermon: *A Prelude to Prayer*
Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13; Luke 11:1-4



GETTING STARTED

Which of the following words applies to your *normal* attitude towards prayer? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joy | <input type="checkbox"/> Burden | <input type="checkbox"/> Desperation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obligation | <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline | <input type="checkbox"/> Necessity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Priority | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult | <input type="checkbox"/> Time-consuming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Unproductive | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfying |

BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Matthew 6:5-13.
 - What criticism does Jesus level at the person praying in verse 5?
 - Is this a condemnation of public praying? Explain.
 - Few of us probably follow Jesus' instructions in verse 6 literally. What is the idea behind Jesus' directions in this verse?
 - To what is Jesus referring in verse 7 when He condemns "babbling like pagans (NIV) or "vain repetitions" (KJV)?
 - Since God the Father knows what we need even before we ask, why ask?
2. Pastor Paul pointed out that Jesus' instructions in Matthew 6 came at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, while Luke 11 happened much later in His ministry.
 - What is the significance of the fact that His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray in Luke 11?
 - Why do you think Jesus responded the same way in Luke 11 as He did in Matthew 6?

APPLY IT

Over the next week, carefully examine your attitudes towards prayer (look over the list at the beginning of this lesson). What attitudes that you possess interfere with your prayer life? What changes can you make that will help to improve the time you spend in prayer?