

For Real or For Show (Part Two)
 Series: *Jesus Uncut – Sermon on the Mount*
 – Matthew 6:5-15 –

“Be careful not practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.” (vs. 1)

1. The Exhortation (vss. 5-7)

Two kinds of dysfunctional praying. . .

(a) Trying to impress others (Hypocrites)

(b) Trying to manipulate God (Pagans)

2. The Example (vss. 8-15)

“This, then, is how you should pray...”

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. Jesus critiques two kinds of dysfunctional praying. In your own words, describe the problem Jesus had with each of these groups?
3. Is Jesus saying you shouldn't have lengthy prayers? What's the deeper point? Of the two critiques, which is the most tempting for you in your own prayer life?
4. As you read through verses 8-15, does anything surprise you? What especially grabs the most? Why?
5. Do you think Jesus wanted us to pray these exact words, or is He giving us a general pattern for prayer? Why?
6. What misuses of the prayer could spring from either position?
7. If God knows our needs before we pray (v. 8), why pray at all?
8. Does prayer come easy for you, or do you find it difficult? What encouragement comes from the fact in Luke's account, the disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” (Lk. 11:1)?

