

**February 2nd, 2025**

**Sermon: When we Pray: Not Like Them**

**Main text: Matthew 6:5-8**

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does this story tell me about God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who am I, going to tell?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Key points, quotes and to reflect on and discuss from Craig message:**

**“The main purpose of prayer is not to make life easier, nor to gain magical powers, but to know God”  
Phillip Yancey**

**“Think about our relationship with God as Father... and his love**

**We do not pray to tell God what he does not know, nor to remind him of things he has forgotten. He already cares for the things we pray about...He has simply been waiting for us to care about them with him.” Tim Stafford**

**Bottom Line...**

- I think what Jesus is getting at in this passage is about developing a habit of spending time with God, simply to get to know him, to grow closer to him, to deepen your relationship with him.
- Question to consider – why do you pray? What’s my motive? What’s the reward?
- And assuming you see good reason to pray... What might it look like to make prayer more central in your life? (like the questions I asked at the beginning)
- And don’t worry... if you’re really at a loss for how to pray (it’s hard, you don’t know how, etc), don’t worry, the next few weeks will give language for how to pray. Jesus will really teach us how to pray... as we come to the Lord’s prayer (you may want to read it and pray it this week as we prepare to dive into it for the next few weeks)

**Pause for silent prayer (personal prayer)... Jesus what are you speaking to me personally about, or us as a small group about?**

