

**The Sermon on the Mount – Lesson 8**  
**Matthew 6:1-15**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show what Christ says about good deeds and prayer.

- Intro:
1. How is a person to do their righteous deeds?
  2. Is there a right way and wrong way to pray?

**I. Deeds done for the right reason in the right way (v.1-4; Mt 23:5a)**

**A. Good deeds are not to be done for self promotion (v.1-2)**

1. “Take heed” is literally, “hold the mind on the matter.” (Do this constantly)
2. Charitable deeds are those things that help others who are in need.
3. If any action of man is done to only be seen of men, then there will be no reward from God.
4. Sin can take the simple form of self promotion, the attitude and lifestyle of putting yourself on a pedestal and not lifting up others for their righteous and godly living.

**B. How is a charitable deed to be done? (v.3-4)**

1. With the simple intention to help those in need; our praise should be sought from God and not men (**Phil 1:11**)
2. A charitable deed is something done to help someone in need as we have the ability to do so. This is not the place to puff oneself up or to brag about such a deed. A Christian finds no reason to boast or even mention the help they have given to others.

**II. The Lord’s instructions concerning prayer (v.5-8)**

**A. Do not imitate the hypocrite's prayer (v. 5; Mt 23:14)**

1. The hypocrite is the person who is a “play actor”, or we may simply call them “fake”.
2. The hypocrite has no righteous reason for their actions, therefore the faithful Christian is encouraged not to be like them.

**B. How prayer is to be done (v.6-8)**

1. Christ’s teaching on Christian prayer
  - **Prayer can be private it doesn’t have to always be public;**
  - **Vain repetitions is condemned-repeating a phrase is not condemned only when they are in vain**
  - **Prayer doesn’t have to be lengthy;**
  - **A prayer is done to bring your needs or thanks before God, not for others to marvel at or be in awe of.**
2. Even though our heavenly Father knows our needs, we are still to pray to Him (v. 8)

**III. Our Lord’s Prayer**

**A. The Lord’s example of an acceptable prayer (v.9-13)**

- **Acknowledge the Heavenly Father in Heaven as Holy**
- **The christian’s prayer should be done in accordance to God’s will**
- **Asking for your daily needs to be filled**

- **Asking for forgiveness of sins as you forgive those who have sinned against you.**
  - **Asking to avoid or overcome temptation**
- B. Why speak on forgiveness of sins here? (v.14-15)
1. Why did Christ add this last part about forgiveness of sins?
  2. What should a person do before praying for forgiveness? Forgive those who have sinned against him.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Are you like the hypocrite or as Christ would desire you to be?
2. What about your prayers? Are they as Christ would have them to be?
3. Full Invitation