

Richmond Hill Baptist Church

January 15, 2012

M6 IN FOCUS: Insight from Matthew 6, "Closed Doors" (Praying with Focus)

Prelude

Call to Worship: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Welcome: Welcome to the Richmond Hill Baptist Church. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate. Let's greet one another.

Sing: *How Can I Keep From Singing, As It is in Heaven, I Exalt Thee*

Children's Corner: Reading through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

Matthew 6:33: Keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.

10 Day & 21 Day Commitments

Pray for your parents while they go through the Daniel Fast.

Pray for your parents that their marriage would be strong.

Announcements Offering:

1. Valentine Brunch, February 11
2. Youth Ski Trip, Feb 3 & 4, Information Centre
3. Newcomers Luncheon today
4. Explore RHBC

Offertory: *The Lord's Prayer*

Sketch: **Sketch: "Praying the Lord's Prayer"**

Sermon: **M6 IN FOCUS: Insight from Matthew 6**

Amen!

Last week we talked about "**Crave**" (**Fasting with Focus**).

Today we are going to talk about "**Closed Doors**" (**Praying with Focus**).

The Lord's Prayer falls right in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6.

Jesus begins and ends this prayer with some words of caution.

Kananaskis: Muslims from Pakistan Praying with Prayer Mat facing north

Three Prayer Pitfalls to Avoid:

1. Avoid the Pitfall of the Hypocrite.

Matthew 6:5-6

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Motive is critical. Why are you praying?

Question to consider: Do you spend more time praying in private than in public?

2. Avoid the Pitfall of the Pagan.

Matthew 6:7-8

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Think through your words! Consider what you are saying.

3. Avoid the Pitfall of the Un-forgiven.

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

The measure we use will be applied to us.

Five Areas to Focus on as you Pray:

1. Focus on the Father

Matthew 6:9

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

2. Focus on the Kingdom

Matthew 6:9-10

your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

3. Focus on Physical Needs

Matthew 6:9-11

Give us today our daily bread.

(Manna - Exodus 16) 40 year of Daily Bread stopped before the Battle of Jericho

Is it need or greed?

4. Focus on Forgiveness

Matthew 6:9-12

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

We are most like Jesus when we forgive. We least like Jesus when we don't.

5. Focus on Following paths of Righteousness

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Pray Defensive: If you struggle with an area temptation pray for strength, protection, victory, and deliverance in this area.

Pray Offensive: Psalm 23: "He guides me in paths of righteousness."

Daniel Fast: Don't spend more time focused on what you are going to eat than you do praying. We want you to focus on praying for one thing.

Mark 9:29 *He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."*

Some manuscripts say prayer and fasting.

Let's Pray:

1. Focus on the Father
2. Focus on the Kingdom
3. Focus on Physical Needs
4. Focus on Forgiveness
5. Focus on Following paths of Righteousness

For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen!

Response: *I Lift My Eyes Up*

Next Sunday: January 22: **“Conflicted” (Serving with Focus)**

The Following Sunday: January 29: **“Consumed” (Following with Focus)**

Sketch: “Praying the Lord’s Prayer”

Cindy *Our Father who art in heaven...*

Doug Yes!

Cindy Who was that?

Doug It was me!

Cindy Me who?

Doug Your Heavenly Father!

Cindy Oh!

Doug Didn’t you call me.

Cindy Well, yes! I thought you were in heaven...

Doug I am but; I am here too. You know that omniscient thing.

Cindy Okay!

Doug You can keep going.

Cindy With what?

Doug Your prayer.

Cindy *Hallowed be thy name.*

Doug What do you mean by that?

Cindy I am not sure! You know it is just part of the prayer.

Doug It means holy, sacred, and worthy of praise.

Cindy Sorry!

Doug Keep going.

Cindy *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Doug Are you really serious about that?

Cindy Sure – why not!

Doug So what are you doing about it?

Cindy Not much now that I think about it. It would be great if you got control of everything down here, like you have it up there.

Doug Do I have control of you?

Cindy Good question!

Doug I find there is a lot of tension in you when it comes to doing my will or your will.

Cindy You're right! I am sorry.

Doug Well – keep going.

Cindy *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Doug You could use a little less bread. Have considered the Daniel Fast?

Cindy Alright God! Now you have gone too far.

Doug Just saying!

Cindy *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...*

Doug Before we settle your debts let's talk about ...

Cindy I knew it - You just don't understand how it is to forgive her and how much her words hurt.

Doug Oh... but I do understand. Forgiveness is powerful and it is one of the most healing and helpful things you can do.

Cindy You are right. Will you help me forgive her?

Doug Yes, I will. Don't forget: you have one more area to talk through.

Cindy *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Doug No worries! You keep your eyes on me and follow me and I will take care of you.

Cindy Thanks God! Oh...PS. Is it okay for me to say: I love you.

Doug Yes it is! You are welcome and I love you too.

Cindy Amen!