

Matthew 6:1, 5-12 "With Your Father in Secret"

Please read the passage out loud. This week's text consists of two distinct but related sections: (i) Jesus's teaching on prayer in vv. 1, 5-9, and (ii) the Lord's Prayer in vv. 9-13.

1. What do you think hypocrisy in prayer is (v. 5)? What version or versions of yourself have you brought into your prayers?
2. What can make an attempted prayer consist of nothing but "empty phrases" (v. 7)?
3. What does it mean to "go into your room and shut the door and pray" (v. 6)?
4. Moses prayed and spoke to God "face to face, as a man speaks to his friend," in the tent of meeting (Exodus 33:11). Are things different for us when we go into the room and pray to our Father who is in secret (v. 6)? Why, or why not?
5. What do you think the "reward" (v. 6) of prayer is? Have you had any experiences that you can identify as a reward of prayer?
6. What does it mean to you that the Lord's Prayer is a collective prayer, bringing our worship and our petitions to our Father? What is the difference, if any, between praying the Lord's Prayer individually, and praying it as a community?
7. Is there a prayer that is particularly meaningful or memorable to you? Please considering sharing such prayers, whether your own, from Scripture, or elsewhere, with your group.