



## Message Outline

Doug Kyle

January 21, 2024

Matt 6:5-10; Matt 15:8-9; Luke 18:13

# “You Just Need to Pray Harder”

SERIES: *And other Stuff Jesus Never Said*

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## ❏ DID JESUS TEACH US TO PRAY HARDER?

- Should my prayers be more impressive?

No, God sees your heart

Matt 6:5-6

- Should I pray longer?

No, just be straightforward

Matt 6:7

- Do I need to build my case?

No, simply trust God knows

Matt 6:8-9

- Must I persist in prayer until it happens?

No, ultimately we leave it with God

Matt 6:10

## ❏ SO, INSTEAD OF PRAYING HARDER, TRY PRAYING softer

Matt 15:8-9; Luke 18:13



## HomeGroup Questions

Winter Session 2024

You Just Need to Pray Harder | *Stuff Jesus Never Said*  
Matt 6:5-10; Matt 15:8-9; Luke 18:13 | Jan 21, 2024

1. When you first learned about prayer, was it more of a privilege or a duty? How has it changed over the years? How would you describe it now?
2. Read Matt 6:5-13 and review the outline. What challenged you and/or comforted you? Why?
3. Jesus begins His teaching on prayer by describing how we should NOT pray (vs. 5-8). Why do you think this is? What do these negative examples teach us about how Jesus DOES want us to pray?
4. According to verses 5-6, we should pray alone unseen by others. But other verses in the Bible suggest it is ok to pray with others and publicly. What then is at the heart of Jesus' teaching in verses 5-6? What principle applies to all prayers, private or public?
5. In vs. 7, Jesus warns against babbling on and on in prayer. See also Ecclesiastes 5:2. What is Jesus' concern here?
6. If prayer isn't meant to inform God about our needs, or convince Him to meet them (see Matt 6:8), what IS the purpose of prayer? The Bible is clear that we should pray. Why?
7. Jesus told us to begin our prayers by realizing God is our Father. How should that change the way most people pray?
8. Doug said, "*Instead of praying harder, try praying softer.*" How might you put that into practice?
9. How can your group pray for you?