

Matityahu 6b

Prayer

v5

'hypocrites' - again, Yeshua is addressing the problem of incorrect motivation.

'standing' - this is the required position when reciting the *Amidah*, the most important section of the prayer service.

'so that people can see them'

'in the synagogues' - as the *Sheliach Tzibur*, the leader of the prayers.

'in the streets' - the prayers were recited out-doors on fast-days. Also, one would stop work or whatever activity to pray at the proper times.

'they have their reward' - this infers God does not hear the prayer of the hypocrite, since he was not intent on communicating with Him in the first place!

v6

'room' - lit. a room with no windows; closet, storeroom. A place of maximum security and privacy. Obviously, a contrast to the prayers in v5.

An interesting opposite, Talmud Berakhot 31a cites Daniel 6:10-11 to say one should always pray in a room with a window!

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

'will reward you' - Yeshua promises answer to prayer that was made with the Father, alone, as the recipient.

What component is applied when prayer is done in privacy? Faith! You must believe God will hear you, because you are sure no one else can.

v7

Rabbi Shim'on said. "...When you pray, do not make your prayer fixed [repetitive, mechanical], but [appeal for] mercy and supplication before the Omnipresent, blessed be He." Mishnah Avot 2.13

When you address the Holy One, blessed be He, let your words be few. Gemara B'rakhot 61a 'gentiles' - or pagans. *Am ha-aretz*: people of the land, uneducated, ignorant

v8

see Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 65:24

"It shall come to pass

That before they call, I will answer;

And while they are still speaking, I will hear.