

the  Venues  
**Go Deep**  
**The Change Will Do You Good**  
**A Change in Praying**  
2.16.2020

*What have you been taught about prayer and how to pray?  
Are you satisfied with your prayer life? Do you think there may be more to it?*

**Read Matthew 6:5-8.**

*Have you seen people pray like those described by Jesus?  
How did it make you feel?*

*What does this say about praying in public? Why is public prayer so important to some people?*

*What does verse 8 do to your understanding of prayer? Should we or should we not ask for stuff?*

Thomas Keating, a Trappist Monk, interprets “room” (literally “inner room”) in Matthew 6:6 metaphorically to mean our “heart space” or “mind space” where we experience the presence of the Spirit.

*How is “heart space” praying different than other praying?  
How does this “inner” praying fit with 1 Thessalonians 5:17?*

Read the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Luke tells us the prayer is a response to a request (11:1).

**“Our Father”** - *Why “our” instead of “my”?*

**“Hallowed be your name”** - *To respect God’s name is to act in ways consistent with God.  
What are people who carry the name “Christian” doing to the reputation of Christ?*

**“Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**  
*How was this phrase political in Jesus’ day? Whose kingdom was Jesus wanting to replace?  
What would things be like on earth if this prayer were answered? What is our role in answering it?*

**“Give us this day our daily bread”**  
*What does this teach us about how to live (in the present, in dependence)?*

**“Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.”**  
*Do we really want God to forgive us in the same way we forgive others?  
What’s Jesus telling us here?*

**“And lead us not into temptation (trials) but deliver us from evil (pain, harassed, feeling worthless).”**  
*Which do you think is the better translation?*

**“For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”**  
*Why doesn’t Jesus get away from politics?! How do you think the Roman government (Herod, Pilate, Caesar, the soldiers) felt about Jesus’ prayer for only God’s kingdom to last?*

Read Philippians 4:6-7. *What is the result of presenting our requests to God? Maybe that is what prayer is all about?*