



## **SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **James Forsyth – Matthew 6:5-15 July 8 2018**

- 1) Pastor James suggests that because of prayer's pervasiveness in American culture, we may take it for granted. In what ways do you find yourself taking prayer for granted?
- 2) In telling the story about the playground and his daughter, Pastor James illustrated how God's ear is tuned for the voices of those he loves and who are precious to him. How might this change the way we approach God in prayer?
- 3) Pastor James asked "If the separation between us and God has been dealt with, if we have access to intimate relationship with the Father who loves us, if we have an audience with the all-powerful Lord of the universe, why wouldn't we make the most of that?" What external & internal challenges complicate having a routine prayer life?
- 4) God rewards secret prayer by changing our circumstances. Pastor James made the assertion that "when you pray, things will happen that wouldn't have happened if you hadn't prayer." What makes this a hard truth for us to get our heads around?
- 5) God rewards secret prayer by changing us. God loves us too much to grant requests that wouldn't be good for us. Can you think of a time in which you can now see God's kindness in not granting a request?
- 6) Sometimes you never know why God doesn't grant a request. Pastor James says "In these moments when he hasn't changed our circumstances, we recognize that God is good and he is still at work in us. God is a loving father who cares more about you than you care about you." How can this be a source of comfort?

- 7) God rewards secret prayer by changing our relationship with him. James says “If prayer accomplished nothing, it would still be worth everything because it would be the gateway to firsthand knowledge of God.” How might this understanding of prayer change our prayer lives?