

Prayer as Worship (2)

How do we pray in such a way that it is worshipful or pleasing to God?

Last week we talked about how worship is an action.

Here we see some actions that are worshipful and how prayer leads us to that action.

²⁷

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

Pray for those who mistreat you. MMMM Tough one.

Bless those who curse MMM,

Love your enemies. MMMM

Pray for them MMMM

Ok they are the principles, the next verses take some scenarios and spell it out.

²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.

Ok tough one, so when someone hits you, you give them a second shot. Or as one guy did, let him hit you then deck him.

The next one, someone takes your jacket, give him your shirt. Now that is going to get cold in winter. The idea is go the extra bit, go further. It does two things. Stops them in their tracks and embarrasses the heck out of them.

³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

You have got to be kidding, give to everyone who asks. This will send us broke. I get sick of borrowing things and not getting them back. I leant a guitar and amp to a guy once and when he was moving house I went to his garage sale he was selling them. They were mine. I kicked up a stink, but I didn't get the guitar and amp back or any money out of him. I can't keep affording to have that happen. How are we supposed to do that?

It gets really confusing in the next verse

³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If he stole from me does that mean I can steal it back????

I think we get some principles from first few verses and the next one. Remember pray for those who mistreat you. Love your enemies.

And

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.

³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.

³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

What has this to do with prayer and worship? Well if you pray for those who mistreat you and act these things through, then it is worship. A worship of obedience. Some would call it Practical Worship.

Here is the basis of this practical worship:

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

It's all a matter of doing what God would do.