

INTRODUCTION: Message - "Just Between Us" (Matthew 6:5-8)

Have you ever given any thought to God's feelings? Do you think God has feelings? Do you think some of the words we say to God and about God can hurt his feelings? So many things compete for part of our daily routine. Perhaps we have let the worries of this life encroach on our time with God. Is it possible that the Creator of our universe is lonely to meet with us in private?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 6:5-6. How was God's creation behaving at this point? How did God react? Why?
2. Read Isaiah 1:11-15. The word "abomination" means something so awful that it makes you sick to your stomach. What other emotions can you identify in these passages?
3. Read Ephesians 4:30. How do you think we can grieve the Holy Spirit?
4. Read Matthew 14:22-23 and Mark 1:35. How busy do you imagine Jesus was? Do you think it was difficult for Jesus to find time to be alone to pray?
5. Read Matthew 6:5. Jesus describes a method of praying that is NOT pleasing to God. What was it about their prayers that God disliked?
6. Read Matthew 6:7-8. Jesus explains another method of praying that is NOT pleasing to God. What do you suppose "vain repetitions" sound like? What then causes God to listen?

SO WHAT?:

God has feelings and we are made in His image. God's emotions include sadness, anger, jealousy, grief, weariness (but not as in being physically tired) and joy. He YEARNS for an intimate relationship with us through Jesus Christ. Prayer is NOT a duty, but an opportunity to be in God's presence. Prayer is NOT about finding the right words or phrases.

Find time and ways to be alone with God. You may say 10,000 words, only few words, or say nothing at all. Like a little child, what will you whisper in God's ear this week?

THINK ABOUT IT:

"(7) But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. (8) Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." (Matthew 6:7-8, KJV)