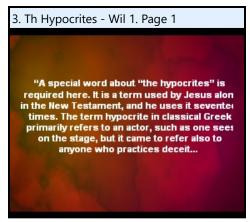
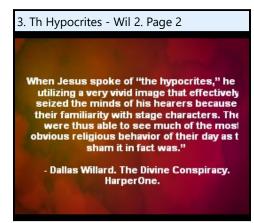




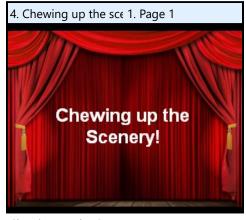
5"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6But



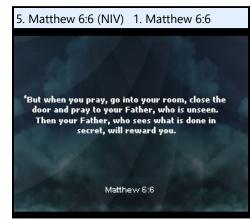
"A special word about "the hypocrites" is required here. It is a term used by Jesus alone in the New Testament, and he uses it seventeen times. The term hypocrite in classical Greek primarily refers to an actor,



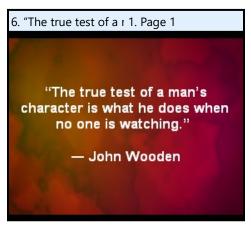
When Jesus spoke of "the hypocrites," he was utilizing a very vivid image that effectively seized the minds of his hearers because of their familiarity with stage characters. They were thus able to see



Chewing up the Scenery!

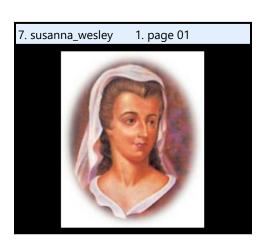


6But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



"The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching."

— John Wooden



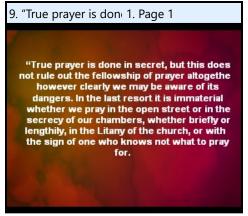
8. "Each one of us is r 1. Page 1

"Each one of us is meant to develop a secret, hidden, private practice of communion with God. We are to go into our "room" and "shut the door." This is not something intended to b taken literally. It is a metaphor. The "inner room" is Jesus' meaning — that is to say, the inner person or "the heart." It is the secret place in which we encounter the Father for ourselves: he is our Father, too; not only the Father of Jesus, but shared with us by Jesus.

- Addison H. Hart. Taking Jesus at His Word: What Jesus Really Said in the Sermon on the

"Each one of us is meant to develop a secret, hidden, private practice of communion with God. We are to go into our "room" and "shut the door." This is not something intended to be taken literally. It

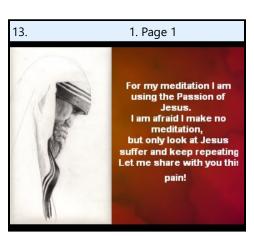
Mount, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.



"True prayer is done in secret, but this does not rule out the fellowship of prayer altogether, however clearly we may be aware of its dangers. In the last resort it is immaterial whether we pray in the open

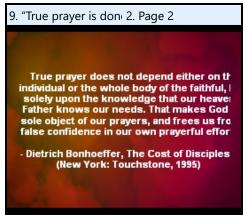


13"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified

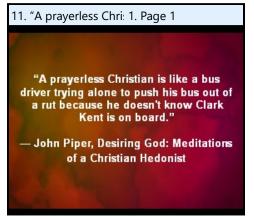


For my meditation I am using the Passion of Jesus.

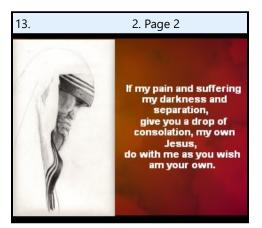
I am afraid I make no meditation, but only look at Jesus suffer and keep repeating,



True prayer does not depend either on the individual or the whole body of the faithful, but solely upon the knowledge that our heavenly Father knows our needs. That makes God the sole object of our prayers,



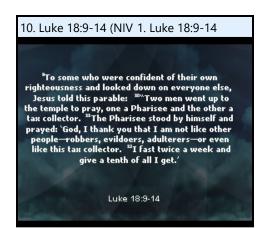
"A prayerless Christian is like a bus driver trying alone to push his bus out of a rut because he doesn't know Clark Kent is on board."



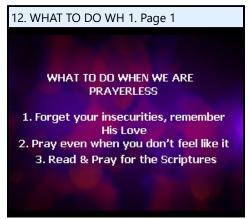
If my pain and suffering, my darkness and separation,

give you a drop of consolation, my own Jesus,

do with me as you wish. I am your own.

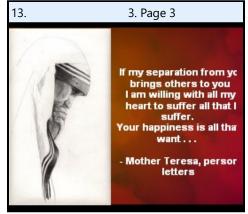


9To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax



WHAT TO DO WHEN WE ARE PRAYERLESS

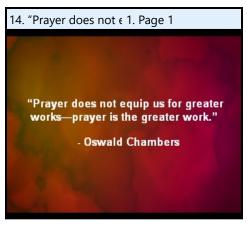
- 1. Forget your insecurities, remember His
- 2. Pray even when you don't feel like it



If my separation from you brings others to you

I am willing with all my heart to suffer all that I suffer.

Your happiness is all that I want . . .



"Prayer does not equip us for greater works
—prayer is the greater work."

- Oswald Chambers