

# WILL THE REAL YOU KNEEL DOWN!

Mt 6:6-8; Lk 18:9-14

## I. TELL THE TRUTH: Who Are You, Really?

- A. “To Tell the Truth”—what’s your “RQ” (Reality Quotient)
- B. T.S. Eliot’s diverse perspectives
  - 1. As a member of the “lost generation,” he wrote “The Hollow Men,” despairing of life
  - 2. As a deeply committed Christian he wrote “Four Quartets,” celebrating eternal life in Christ
- C. Who Are You? Enduring question
  - 1. Socrates: Know Thyself (differs from self-actualization, self-esteem, self-pity)
  - 2. Existentialists’ Insights—diagnosis clear
    - a. Secular: Nietzsche; Heidegger; Sartre
    - b. Christian: Augustine; Pascal; Kierkegaard; Marcel; Barth
  - 3. Introspection always valuable: routine check-ups
    - a. Past: parents; ancestors; associates; events; decisions
    - b. Present: facts, realities, options
    - c. Perennial temptation: self-affirmation, self-actualization, self-esteem
  - 4. Biblical Perspective Crucial
    - a. *Imago Dei*—Gn 1:26-27
    - b. Sin and sins—Gn 3:1-7
    - c. Redemption
      - 1. OT foundation, story: Abraham, Exodus, Promised Land, Captivity, Diaspora
      - 2. NT capstone: Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection
  - 5. Jesus’ Atonement (at-one-with-us) Definitive, imparting new life
    - a. 2 Cor 3:18—“beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory”
    - b. 2 Cor 5:17—“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”
- D. In real prayer we are who we really are

## II. TO BE YOURSELF, GET BY YOURSELF

- A. Entering into Sacred **Silence**—eliminating, ignoring threats to well-being
  - 1. Distractions—“we are distraction from distraction by distractions” (T.S. Eliot)—noise ubiquitous and high decibels harm hearing
  - 2. Diversions—media, sports, hobbies,
  - 3. Dissensions—familial, societal worries
  - 4. Hurry—Karl Jung: “Hurry is not of the devil. It is the devil.”
- B. Selecting a Sacred **Space**
  - 1. Jesus: closet—Mt 6:6-8
  - 2. Pascal: alone in a room by yourself—Pensees
  - 3. St Anthony: desert solitude—Athanasius’ *Life of St Anthony*
  - 5. Katherine Lee Bates: mountains—“America the Beautiful”
  - 5. Rick Kennedy: ocean—*Winds of Santa Ana*
- C. Finding a Sacred **Time**—*kairos* rather than *kronos*
  - 1. Assigned times: morning & evening; seven scheduled times; liturgical routines
  - 2. Continual attitude: pray without ceasing
- D. Cultivating a Sacred **Stance**: humility—cf. Lk 18:9-14
  - 1. Pharisee’s phony display
  - 2. Tax-gatherer’s contritio