

Many years ago, I was sharing at a woman's missionary fellowship gathering at a local church in Williamsport, PA. They had asked me to share the subject of God's heart for missions and about my ministry. As I was preparing to share, I was asking God, "How do we get your heart for missions, for the nations?" He brought the verse from Matthew 6:6-7 to mind, especially the beginning part of the KJV. "But thou, when thou prayest, **enter into thy closet ...**" The phrase 'enter into thy closet' just seemed to pop right off the page of my Bible. So I tested it. I went into my closet and I began praying. I soon realized that my clothes were all made in the nations. China, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Honduras, Haiti ... the list went on and on. I am pretty sure this is not what Jesus meant when he said go into your closet and pray, BUT what if we put it into practice anyway? What if we prayed for the nations that we are putting on each day? What if we dared to ask for God's heart for the nations as we wear them throughout the day? So this is the message I gave that day. I paused in the middle and had people checking each other's tags, and we prayed for the nation in our sort of "closet". It was amazing to see how as I began to practice this in my life, my heart grew for the nations. Through these quiet times of prayer, genuinely asking God for His heart ... He began to give me His heart.

God is so ready and eager to give us His heart, and He gives us such a great way of receiving His heart — through this practice of Prayer! Jesus reminds us that though corporate prayer is great, and we need to be praying with and for one another as well, that there is something He has prepared for us in the secret place in the quiet place in the closet, where He will reveal more and more of His heart to us so we can partner with Him and pray like Jesus did a few verses later in Matthew 6:10 "May your kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, (In China, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Honduras, Haiti,) as it is heaven."

It's not about the practice of prayer that will change us, it's all about the one we pray to and His transforming work in our hearts as He reveals His heart to us in the quiet secluded place where we can just be focused on Him!

Exercise it out:

1. I invite you to pause right now; go into your closet or at least find the tag of the clothes you are wearing and ask for God's heart for that nation.
2. Find a moment in your day when you can go into "your closet", close the door and for a moment be alone with God. Instead of rattling off a long list of prayer needs... would you consider starting with the Words of Jesus, "May your kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", and then simply ask Jesus what is on His heart today and then whatever He shows you take that moment to pray into it.

Keep on praying my friends!

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