

Matthew Chapter 6

Sermon on the Mount – continued

- This chapter focuses on our giving, prayer, and fasting – priorities in life.
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V: 1 Alms / charitable deeds = giving, prayer, and fasting, righteousness.

Alms: (H1654). eleemosune, el-eh-ay-mos-oo'-nay; compassionateness, as exercised towards the poor, beneficence, a benefaction; alms (-deeds).

- Motive: Giving glory to God, or glory to self?

Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Motive / standard

1 Corinthians 3:13 “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick / living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

V: 2-3 “When” you do these things (7X’s) as opposed to “if”, it is assumed that you / we will.

“*Hypocrites*” – Greek “hupocrite”, an actor, one who wears masks, two faced.

Giving is a gift of the Spirit:

Romans 12:8-9 “Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

- The Pharisees and the self righteous would have trumpets blown as they gave their offering into the collective offering boxes, they would pray in public in such a way as to draw attention to themselves so people could see how righteous they were.
- Our giving should be in simplicity of spirit, genuine, and discreet.

V: 4 *“Thy Father / Your Father”*

- This is a New Testament “relationship” as opposed to Elohim, El Shaddai, Jehovah, Yahweh, Old Testament titles of strength and power.
- “Father” is personal, literally means “life giver”.

John 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

- Motive? To glorify God or self.

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which in heaven.”

Luke 14:12-14 “Then said he to him who invited Him, when you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

V: 5-6 *“If you don’t pray in private, you shouldn’t pray in public”*

W. Weirsbe.

- Men should not pray as much in public as we do in private.

Motive: Conversation with God or with men.

- Jesus prayed in public, but He prayed in private more.

Mark 1:35 “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

John 6:11 “And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes, as much as they wanted.”

Daniel 6:10 Daniel prayed by himself in his room.

2 Kings 4:33 Elisha / Shunamite woman’s son, closed the door and prayed.

Psalms 139:23-24 ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

1 Timothy 2:8 “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;”

- There is a time and a place for each kind of prayer. In any case it should be done to glorify God.

V 7 Prayer should be thought out or treated like a conversation.

- Not vain repetitions – babbling – lacking thought.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Do not be rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God. For God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.”

Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”

- Not “teach us to prophesy, heal, teach”, but teach us to pray.
- This occurred two years later after they had seen many miracles; they had come to the realization that the real power was in the prayers.
- Jesus then repeated the exact same lesson on prayer contained here in verses **9-13**.

Matthew 26:38-44 regarding “relevant” repetitions. Jesus prayed three times about the same thing – but He did it thoughtfully with a desire to please God.

V: 8 **James 4:2-3** “... yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

- God knows our needs.

Psalms 139:1-2 “¹O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me. ²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off.”

John 16:23 “...Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you.”

- Ask as opposed to demand or command.

V 9 This is a model prayer, and example, not a rote ritual.

“Pray ye” – you are to pray thus, much of this prayer applies to us, not to Jesus. It is really “the disciples prayer”, not the Lord’s prayer.

“Our Father” – Abba – Daddy – personal relationship Vs Old Testament relationship.

- El Shaddai – “The Mighty One”
- Elohim – “The Strong One”
- Yahweh – The unspeakable word which means “I am that I am”
- Why the name change? Did God change? No!

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not;....”

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

- **We changed:**

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

“*Father*” speaks to a personal relationship with God. Otherwise without such a relationship our prayers would be meaningless.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”

“*Which art in Heaven*” – lest we forget our relative positions. He’s always due our reverence and worship, not to be referred to in casual terms lacking the reverence He is so worthy of.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Do not be rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God. For God is in heaven, and you upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.”

“*Hallowed be Your name*”

Hallowed: G-37. hagiazo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; to make holy, i.e. purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.

Psalms 8:9 “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Philippians 2:9-11 “⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Peter

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Leviticus 22:32 “Neither shall ye profane My holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the LORD which hallow you,”

Psalms 99:3 “Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.”

V: 10 1st petition – “*Your Kingdom come*” – come quickly Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20 “He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

2nd “*Thy will be done*”, God’s will be done.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Jesus praying to His Father said:

Matthew 26:39 “... O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

“*On earth as it is in heaven.*” There is no questioning God’s will in Heaven, there is no struggle between the will of God and the will of the angels, or saints – God’s will is flawless.

V: 11 3rd petition – our needs – proper sequence is important. We can’t give to others what we don’t have.

“*Give us*”- ask, humble yourself!

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Psalms 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

“*this day*”, not knowing what tomorrow will bring.

James 4:14-15 “¹⁴Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

Matthew 6:34 “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

“*Our daily bread*” – of life.

John 6:35 “I am the bread of life. He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.”

Matthew 4:4 “...it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Job 23:12 “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

John 4:34 “Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

Psalms 42:1-2 “¹As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. ²My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”

Psalms 34:8-10 “⁸Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him! ⁹Oh, fear the Lord, ye His saints! For there is no want to them that fear Him. ¹⁰The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.”

- Chocolate cake – describe, but don’t know what it tastes like till you try it.

V 12 “*Forgive us our debts*”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalms 51:1-17 Turn there.

Psalms 32:1-2 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

“*As we forgive our debtors*” - extending forgiveness to others.

Ephesians 4:32 “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Matthew 18:23-35 Turn there.

Colossians 3:12-13 “¹²Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

- This is the only part of the prayer that is later elaborated upon in verses **14 & 15**.

V: 13 “Lead” = “Leave” – into temptation:

James 1:13 “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, nor tempteth He any man.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- “Evil” = “the evil one”

“For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

- Acknowledging His position and ability, giving Him glory!

Psalms 29:2 “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another,…”

V: 14-15 We need to remember who’s talking here, Jesus is speaking.

- Jesus re-emphasizes the importance of forgiveness.

Hebrews 8:12 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? ²²Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven?”

- This is not about what the other person has done, this is about our own hearts and our willingness to forgive the we have been forgiven.

V: 16 “When”, again the assumption that we will.

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

- Doing the right things for the wrong reasons is for naught.

- “Fasting”, God only required fasting on the annual “day of atonement” (**Lev. 23:27**), yet the Pharisees instituted fasting on Monday and Thursday (**Luke 18:12**) and did so in such a way that drew attention to themselves.
- The Pharisees would put on their fasting faces when they went out, they would look grieved or anguished, disheveled – all in an attempt to draw attention to themselves, the opposite of what Jesus is teaching us here.

Matthew 6:1 “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.”

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

- If we are walking in the Spirit, then our intent is to glorify our Father in Heaven. If we’re walking in the flesh, then our intent is to glorify ourselves.
- There is a time and a place for fasting, Jesus said “when you fast”.

Paul tells us:

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- **Daniel Ch. 10** - starts off describing Daniel fasting and praying for three weeks then an angel appeared to him:

Daniel 10:10-14 “¹⁰And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. ¹¹And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. ¹²Then said he unto me, fear not, Daniel: for from the first day thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me **one and twenty days**: (3 weeks) but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.”

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

Peter, James, & John – Mt. of transfiguration – 9 left with father, son, & Pharisees.

Mark 9:29 “And He said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”

V: 17 When we fast, we're to be discreet about it, not advertise it, or telegraph it with our appearance.

- Wash your face, comb your hair, don't do anything else different.
- "Anoint thine head" – ask God to anoint what you are doing, anoint yourself with the Holy Spirit that it would be pleasing unto Him.

V: 18 Like worship, this is simply to please God, not a show for anyone else.

- This comes with the understanding that our Father does see the "secret" things of our hearts, our motives and our desires.
- And that He will reward these things openly when it's time.

V: 19-21 Speaking about money matters and how we are to view it.

1 Peter 1:3-4 ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

2 Peter 2:19 "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Proverbs 23:4 "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom."

Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 19:24 "And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Luke 16:1-8 The unjust steward using his present position to prepare for the inevitable.

1 John 3:17-18 ¹⁷But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

V: 22-23 It has been said that the eyes are the window to the soul.

- Be careful of what enters through the eye gate, be careful what you look at.

“The light of the body is the eye...”

- If therefore thine eye be single – single minded, whole, wholly set upon the things of the Lord.
- Then, they whole body shall be full of light.

But: contrast – if thine eye be evil...

Colossians 3:2-5 ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. ⁵Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

1 John 2:15-16 ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

V: 24 We can only have one master, one Lord.

James 1:8 “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

James 4:4 “... know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God?”

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me, is against Me.”

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

V: 25-31 God will always supply our needs:

Romans 8:32 “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Philippians 4:6-7, 11. ⁶Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made

known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” –

Paul knew about being in want:

Philippians 4:11 “¹¹Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

- Our issues usually come when we have desires that are greater than our needs:

Proverbs 30:8-9 “⁸Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

1 Timothy 6:6-9 “⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸Having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

Psalms 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

V: 32 To worry about material things is to lived like the heathen.

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord or God.”

V: 33 If we put God first in our lives, our highest priority is pleasing Him, then He'll take care of the rest.

- First – before all else. This goes beyond food and clothing, but in every issue in our lives.

V: 34:

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

Mark 16:3-4

- Who's going to roll away the stone?
- When they got there it was already taken care of.