



Sermon on the Mount
Sermon 5
Matthew 6:1-15

Sermon Study Guide
February 9, 2020

Review

Last week in our study of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount-'ainside", we looked at 3 additional areas where Jesus had raised the bar.

1. Speaking truthfully all the time instead of only when we swear/take an oath.
2. Not seeking to get even when wronged, rather than an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth.
3. Loving and praying for our enemies, rather than hating them.

As Jesus wrapped up this section of His sermon, he summarized by saying we are to "be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect." In other words, as children of God, we are to carry on the legacy that Jesus established with His earthly life.

As Gianna Bryant told her daddy (Kobe) "I got this", when it came to her father's legacy, so are we to tell our heavenly Father, "I got this" when it comes to carrying on His legacy.

Let's move into Matthew 6, as Jesus challenges us to choose who we want to be rewarded by when it comes to acts of righteousness. Remember, in this sermon, Jesus is teaching the people things that will result in building our lives upon a foundation of rock rather than upon a foundation of sand.

In today's teaching, Jesus will refer to 3 spiritual practices where we must be intentional about who we want to please -giving, prayer and fasting.

Read Matthew 6:1-4

Giving

- Why do we want to be noticed when we help others in need?
- What does the Father say about those parading their works to be seen by others?
- When help is given to the needy in secret who will notice and what is the response of the Father?

Read Acts 5:1-11. How do Ananias and Sapphira parade what they gave and what was the reward that they received from God?

When helping people in need, don't "sound a trumpet" (bringing attention to you) for what you have done in order to be praised by others. If you do it in secret, giving attention to God – He will reward you.

Read Matthew 6:5-15

Prayer

- Who are the hypocrites and why were their prayers offensive to God?
- When we pray, who is our audience and how does that effect our prayer life?
- How does Jesus describe how we are to pray? List all the ways we are not to pray.
- If God already knows what we are going to pray – why does He want us to pray?
- What three concerns did Jesus pray about first? (vs.5-6)

- Jesus gave a model for praying. In the Lord's prayer, Jesus shows us how to pray to His Father. What warning does Jesus give the disciples and the multitude? (vs.7-8)
- How would you break down the Lord's prayer?
- What is the relationship between forgiveness and prayer? (vs. 14-15 and 1 John1:8-9)

Read Matthew 6:16-18

Fasting

- What is fasting?

Fasting gives us time to pray, teaches self-discipline, reminds us that we can live with a lot less, and helps us appreciate God's gifts.

- Jesus was not condemning fasting - what did He condemn?
- Jesus wanted people to seek spiritual disciplines for the right reasons, not from a selfish desire for praise. What have you done in the past that took the glory due to Lord and claimed it for yourself?
- What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you that needs to be addressed in your life?

Summary Observations

1. “When you give, ...fast, ...pray...” Jesus is assuming that these things are happening in each of our lives.

-Are these things that you regularly pursue?

2. Getting the most out of spiritual practices has more to do with motives than with technique.

What is your motive/desire?

-to help a person in need or make yourself look generous.

-to commune with God or make people think you are spiritual.

-to increase the intensity of your prayers by denying yourself physical things or make yourself look good to others.

3. It is easy to direct spiritual practices in the wrong direction. When doing so, we always miss the intended mark.

4. Developing a “religious spirit” that is wrongly focused/motivated is a destructive danger that results in the loss of true rewards/blessings from God in this life and in the next.

Grow MORE Together Reading Plan

Videos are optional and they are found at:

<https://bibleproject.com/all-videos/read-scripture-new-testament/>

Week 1: Video – Overview of Mathew 1-13

Reading:

- Matthew 1-2 Psalm 81
- Matthew 3-4 Psalm 82
- Matthew 5-6 Psalm 83

CrossRoads of Arlington

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The Year of the Bible

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