

MATTHEW

Chapter 6 Bible Study

Teaching about Giving to the Needy

¹ “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ² When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³ But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

1. In Matthew chapter 6 Jesus continues His sermon on the mount by talking about how we should do our good deeds. What did He tell us to avoid when we are helping others? (V1) _____

2. Jesus instructed us to not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing when we do good deeds (to be discreet). What will we get when we help people discreetly, and avoid getting praise from people? (V3,4) _____

Note: Jewish law commanded that they give to the needy, it was not an “option” that you could “choose” to do, out of a genuine loving heart, it was something that was required by Jewish Law (like paying taxes is for us). And the word “hypocrite” was the Greek word for “actor”, so when Jesus was talking about giving to the needy, He was saying that our good deeds should be done out of pure heart, with integrity (doing the right thing when no one else is watching), and not so that we can win the praise of people, like the “actors” in the Jewish culture did.

Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

⁵ “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷ “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and

again. ⁸ Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be kept holy.

¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today the food we need,

¹² and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶ "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. ¹⁷ But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸ Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

3. What should we avoid when we are praying to God? (V5) _____

4. How did Jesus tell us to pray, and what reward will we receive for praying that way? (V6) _____

5. Why should we not babble on with many words when we pray, like people of other religions do? (V7,8) _____

6. Jesus told us how to pray when He gave us "The Lord's Prayer". What are seven things that Jesus told us to pray for, from the Lord's Prayer? (V9-13) _____

Note: Here is a good guide to help you remember the gist of The Lord's Prayer, it's called the 7 P's of Prayer ...

1. **Praise** Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.
2. **Plan** ¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
3. **Provision** ¹¹ Give us today the food we need,
4. **Pardon** ¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
5. **Power** ¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,
6. **Protection** but rescue us from the evil one.
7. **People** (This is added to help you to remember to pray for people)

7. What is one thing that must we do in order to be forgiven by God? (V14) _____

8. Jesus talked about how important it is to do things without trying to get "the praise of people", how did Jesus say we should go about fasting? (V16-18) _____

Teaching about Money and Possessions

¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ²⁵ "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸ "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was

not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

9. Where did Jesus say we should store up our treasures, and where did He say we should “not” store our treasures? (V19,20) _____

10. Jesus talked about a sure way to tell what is important to a person. How did He say you could tell where the desire of a person’s heart is? (V21) _____

11. How did Jesus say you could tell if a person has the light of Jesus Christ in them? (V22,23) _____

12. Throughout the Scriptures, money is talked about because, “where you spend your money determines where a person’s heart is”. Money also represents how we gain access to the ways of “the world”, which are possessions, pleasure, and pride in what we own and what we’ve done. Who did Jesus say you can’t serve, if your first love in life is money, and what money buys? (V24) _____

13. Jesus told us not to worry about the things that we “need” (He didn’t say not to worry about the things that we want), what were the things that Jesus say we need? (V25-32) _____

14. Who worries about whether or not their needs are going to be met (because they don’t believe they have a Heavenly Provider to take care of them)? (31,32) _____

15. What did Jesus say we should seek after, more than any possession, pleasure or prideful emotion that this world can give us? (V33) _____

Note: When Jesus is talking about seeking after a Kingdom, He is referring to a place where there is a King, and that King is God, and not you. Each person has a choice to either make themselves the King of their life, or to humbly get off “the throne of their life”, and let Jesus take the throne. You can tell if Jesus is on the

throne of a person's life by the choices they make ... are their choices honoring to God and other people, or are their choices made based upon what is best for them.

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **third** part of the Lord's Prayer (*Give us today the food we need*), Pray to God and ask Him to provide for your needs in life (Food, clothing, shelter, healthy relationships, etc).

1. Avoid doing your good deeds publically to be admired by others.
2. God who sees everything will reward us.
3. Avoid praying publically where everyone can see you.
4. Jesus told us to pray in secret, and that God will see us and reward us.
5. Because God our Father already knows "exactly" what we need, even before we ask Him.
6. May Your name be Holy ... May Your Kingdom come soon ... May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven ... Give us today the food we need ... Forgive us and we forgive others ... Don't let us yield to temptation ... rescue us from the evil one..
7. We must forgive others.
8. We should comb our hair and wash our face so that no one notices we are fasting.
9. He said to store our treasures in heaven and not on the earth.
10. Just look at where they put their treasure (spend their money).
11. By looking at them in their eyes.
12. God.
13. Jesus told us not to worry about having enough food, drink or clothes.
14. Unbelievers.
15. The Kingdom of God.