

The Sermons of Jesus

Lesson 3

The Practical Applications of True Kingdom Righteousness

Read Matthew 6:1-8. Religious leaders were and still are masters at the game of projecting an image with the goal of impressing other men. They are like actors in a play. Jesus' harshest admonitions were given to hypocrites. In this section, Jesus is calling us to replace superficial ceremony with genuine righteousness. Jesus was following up His statement of Matt 5:20 with actual applications of religious disciplines.

1. In Matt 6:1, what is implied by "Beware" or "Be careful not to"? What three practices of piety carried out by the Pharisees in a hypocritical way did Jesus discuss in Matt 6 (6:2, 5, 16)? What did the Pharisees boast of in Luke 18:12? What did Jesus condemn them for in Matt 23:5-7, 28?

2. Make a chart contrasting the hypocrite's way versus the faithful believer's way according to Matt 6.

	<u>Hypocrites</u>	<u>Faithful</u>
<u>Giving</u>	1. 2.	1. 2.
<u>Prayer</u>	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
<u>Fasting</u>	1. 2.	1. 2.

3. Based on what Jesus teaches in Matt 6, do you think prayer that is thoughtless and indifferent is offensive to God? What amazing statement about prayer did Jesus make in verse 8?

4. Since God is __?_____ and omnipotent why does He "need" us to pray? Is there a magic formula, a memorized prayer, or a way of "badgering" God so that He will have to answer us (Matt 6:7)?

5. What relationship does the Spirit of God have to our prayers (Eph 6:18, Romans 8:26)?

6. Read the “Lord’s prayer” in Matt 6:9-13 that we all memorized in Sunday school. Why do you think Jesus said “pray, then in this way” instead of “memorize this”? What request of the disciples prompted this model prayer (Luke 11:1)? Break this prayer down into two sections – God’s glory (v 9-10) and man’s need (v 11-13). What are the three petitions for each section?

7. Notice that Jesus did not give any specific place, no specific time, and no specific posture. Based on what Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, how would you instruct someone as to place, time, and posture?

8. Notice that there is a heavy emphasis in Jesus’ teaching and His instructions on prayer concerning the anticipated kingdom (Matt 6:10). What did Jesus tell Pilate about the kingdom in John 18:36? What will the heavenly host say about Jesus’ kingdom at the second coming (Rev 11:15)?

9. What is the emphasis of Matt 6:12, 14-15? Even after this instruction, what did the leader of the disciples ask Jesus in Matt 18:21? Interpret the parable Jesus used to answer Peter in Matt 18:23-35. Applying it to yourself, how much has God forgiven you versus what He asks you to forgive others?

10. Matt 6:19-34 is about our tendency to be fixated or worried about “stuff”, or any of the worries of the world. Once again the Pharisees were negative examples; what did they love in Luke 16:14? What is the problem with this (Matt 6:24)? What is the answer (Matt 6:26, 30, 33)? When it comes to family, work, or recreation, what is the priority of life (Col 3:17, Romans 14:7-9, Ex 20:3-5)?