

Week 5 Matthew 6:1-18 Pleasing God or People

Week 1 - Overview - Progressive Sanctification

Week 2 - The Beatitudes

Week 3 - Salt and Light, Law and Righteousness

Week 4 - Exceeding Righteousness

Week 5 - Pleasing God or People

Pleasing God or People

Do things to please God and not people. God will reward you for it.

*Matthew 6:1 Beware of **practicing your righteousness** before other people **in order to be seen by them**, for then you will have **no reward** from your Father who is in heaven.*

When you do **x, y, z**, do not do it like the **hypocrites** do, for they do it **to be seen by others**. Truly I say to you, they have their received their **reward**. But when you do x, y, z, do it in **secret**. And your Father who sees in secret **will reward** you.

1 Principle, please God not people, otherwise you will have no reward

2-4 Pleasing God with our Giving

5-6 Pleasing God with our Prayer

7-8 Prayer style: Don't use vain repetitions

9-13 Lord's prayer

14-15 Prayer condition: Forgive others otherwise God will not forgive you

16-18 Pleasing God with our Fasting

Hypocrites do religious things to impress people. God looks at the motivation of our hearts.

*Matthew 23:5 They do all their deeds to be _____ **by others**. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ... 13 But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!***

*1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the **LORD looks on the _____**."*

*Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a person are clean in his own sight, But the LORD **examines the _____**. (NASB)*

*Romans 2:29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the **heart**, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His **praise is not from _____ but from God**.*

*Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the **approval of man, or of God?** Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to **please man**, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Pleasing God with our Charity

God encourages us to give and promises that He will reward us for it.

*Matthew 6:2 Thus, when you **give to the needy**, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be **praised by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their **reward**. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. **And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.***

*Proverbs 19:17 Whoever is _____ to the **poor** lends to the LORD, and he will _____ him for his deed.*

*Luke 6:38 _____, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be **poured into your lap**. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

*Matthew 10:42 And if anyone **gives** even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My _____, truly I tell you, he will never lose his **reward**.*

Pleasing God with our Prayers

God encourages us to pray, always, and promises that He will reward us for it.

*Matthew 6:5 And when you **pray**, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be **seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their **reward**. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. **And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 **Pray without** _____*

*Ephesians 6:18 **praying at all** _____ in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for **all the saints***

*Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but **in** _____ **by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God.*

God promises to answer our prayers in faith that are according to His will.

*Matthew 21:22 And **whatever** you ask in **prayer**, you will receive, **if** you have _____.*

John 14:13 **Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** 14 **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

John 16:23 *In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, _____*
you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

1 John 5:14 *And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask **anything according to his _____** he hears us.* 15 *And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*

James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him **ask** God, who gives **generously** to **all** without reproach, and it will be given him.* 6 *But let him ask in _____, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.* 7 *For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

James 4:2 ... *You do not have, because you do not ask.* 3 *You ask and do not receive, because you **ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.***

We don't need to use meaningless repetitions, God knows our needs. But we still need to ask.

Matthew 6:7 *And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their **many words.*** 8 *Do not be like them, for **your Father knows what you need** before you ask him.*

Luke 18:1 *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought **always** to **pray** and not **lose _____**.* 2 *He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.* 3 *And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'* 4 *For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man,* 5 *yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6 *And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says.* 7 *And will not **God give justice** to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 *I tell you, **he will give justice** to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find _____ on earth?"***

Jesus teaches us how to pray. The Lord's Prayer.

Matthew 6:9 *In this manner, therefore, pray:*

Our **Father** in heaven, **Hallowed be Your name.** 10 Your **kingdom** come. **Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.** (Everywhere)

11 Give us this day our **daily bread.** (Provision)

(ἄρτον, arton, bread, ἐπιούσιον, epiousion, daily, σήμερον, sēmeron, today)

12 And **forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.***

(ἄφες, apheres, forgive, ὀφειλήματα, ophelēmata, debts)

13 And do not lead us into **temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.** (Protection)

(πειρασμόν, peirasmon, temptation, πονηροῦ, ponērou, evil)

For Yours is the **kingdom** and the **power** and the **glory forever**. (Always)
Amen. (NKJV)

* The center of the center of the center of the Sermon on the Mount

God will not forgive us our sins if we don't forgive others.

*Matthew 6:14 For if **you forgive others** their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also **forgive you**, 15 but if you **do not forgive others** their trespasses, neither will your Father **forgive your trespasses**.*

*Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother _____ **against me**, and I **forgive him**? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but **seventy-seven times**. 23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ... 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'... 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, '**You wicked servant!** I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had **mercy** on your fellow servant, as I had **mercy** on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the **jailers**, **until** he should **pay all his debt**. 35 So also my heavenly Father **will do to every one of you**, if you do not **forgive your brother** from your _____.*

Pleasing God with our Fasting

God encourages us to fast, and promises to reward us for it. Disciples fast.

*Matthew 6:16 And when you **fast**, do not look gloomy like the **hypocrites**, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting **may be seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. **And your Father who sees in secret will reward you**.*

*Matthew 9:14 Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees **fast**, but **your disciples do not fast**?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests **mourn** as long as the **bridegroom** is **with** them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken **away** from them, and _____ **they will fast**.*

Prayer and fasting go hand-in-hand. Fasting strengthens prayer.

*Matthew 17:19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your **unbelief**; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have **faith** as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will*

move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by **prayer** and _____.” (NKJV)

Luke 36 And there was a prophetess, Anna ... 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, **worshiping** with **fasting** and _____ night and day.

Acts 13:2 While they were **worshiping** the Lord and **fasting**, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then after _____ and **praying** they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with **prayer** and **fasting** they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Fasting was done for different reasons

- Forgiveness for sin (Moses, Ahab, Daniel)
- Their loved ones restored to health (David)
- Protection from danger (Ezra)
- Deliverance from their enemies (the Israelites)
- Grief over the loss of a loved one (the men of Jabesh-Gilead, David)
- Humble the soul

*Psalm 69:10 When I **humbled** my soul with **fasting**, they insulted me for doing so.*

God does not care about our fasting if we ignore justice, mercy, and humbly walking with our God.

*Isaiah 58:3 Why have we **fasted**, and **you see it not**? Why have we **humbled ourselves**, and you take no knowledge of it?’*

*Behold, in the day of your **fast you seek your own** _____, and **oppress** all your workers. 4 Behold, you **fast** only to **quarrel** and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will **not make your voice to be heard** on high. 5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord?*

*6 “Is not this the **fast** that I choose: to **loose the bonds of wickedness**, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to **share your bread with the hungry** and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?*

*8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your **righteousness** shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your **rear guard**. 9 Then you shall **call**, and the Lord will _____; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘**Here I am.**’*

God looks at our heart when we fast. Do not harden your heart.

*Zechariah 7:4 Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me: 5 “Say to all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you **fasted** and **mourned** in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it **for** _____ that you **fasted**? 6 And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves?*

*8 And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, 9 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, **Render true judgments**, show **loving kindness** and **mercy** to one another, 10 do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your _____.”*

*11 But **they refused** to pay attention and turned a **stubborn** shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. 12 **They made their hearts diamond-hard** lest they should **hear** the **law** and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. **Therefore great anger** came from the Lord of hosts.*

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it frequently really hard (or even impossible) to please both people and God?
2. Who are there people in your life you need to forgive something? What is holding you back?
3. How is your prayer and fasting life? Can you grow in these areas?