



MATTHEW 6

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Prayer

INTRODUCTION

- **6:1-4 Giving to the Needy**
- **6:5-14 Prayer**
- **6:16-18 Fasting**
- **6:19-24 Treasures in Heaven**
- **6:25-34 Do Not Worry**





RECEIVED THEIR REWARD IN FULL

- “reward” in Matthew
- Now Jesus is using 3 religious practices as proof of piety and looking at what is really going on.
- The verb translated “have” (ἀπέχουσιν) was at that time a technical term in commercial transactions; it meant to ‘receive a sum in full and give a receipt for it.’ “Paid in full”



RECEIVED THEIR REWARD IN FULL

- So the hypocrites who seek applause for their giving of alms, long prayers, and attention for fasting will receive just that. But then they will have all the reward they will get. They will get nothing further, especially divine favor and blessing from such an empty act.



6:5-14 PRAYER

- **What hypocrites do in their prayer life**
- **Opposite for disciples' prayer life**
- **Father knows what you need**
- **Model prayer**
- **Forgiveness is foundation**

WHAT HYPOCRITES DO



- Love to pray standing in the synagogues (empty repetitions, etc.)
- Love to pray standing on street corners
- Unfortunately, they do not love to pray, instead...
- Purpose—“to be seen by others”
- “Truly I say to you...” (authoritative pronouncement)
- They have already received their reward

JOHN R. W. STOTT

- **“It is possible to go to church for the same wrongheaded reason which took the Pharisee to the synagogue: not to worship God, but to gain for ourselves a reputation for piety.”**



OPPOSITE FOR DISCIPLES

- You, however, when you pray...great contrast!
- Command—enter inner chamber, private room, not really a closet like we think of (privacy is the point)
- Having shut your door
- Pray
- Purpose—pray to your Father (entirely different audience!)
- Father sees you on secret
- Will reward you (openly not in the text, perhaps implied)



FATHER KNOWS

- **THE Father knows best!—sign on Father's Day**
- **The Father sees**
- **The Father knows**
- **Implication of watchful, caring Father who knows exactly what we need before we ask**



SO, WHY SHOULD WE EVEN PRAY?

- Relationship enriched with God
- Shaping of our will
- Training of patience with our expectations
- Shapes into thankful people
- Keeps us daily aware of our dependence upon God



MODEL PRAYER

- **Who Father is**
- **Our response—hallowed**
- **Let your kingdom come**
- **Let your will be done—earth and heaven**



MODEL PRAYER

- **Daily bread**
- **Forgiveness (mentioned again after prayer!)**
- **Lead not, deliver from evil (one)**
- **Ending—”For Yours is the kingdom, power, glory, forever and ever, Amen.”**





FORGIVENESS IS FOUNDATION

- **Forgive us our debts, and we forgive our debtors**
- **What is owed, or charged against us**
- **(possibilities—sin against God and others, actual owing of something)**
- **Forgive trespasses (different word here)-fault deviations**
- **Forgive others of their faults, God will forgive us**