

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 11 – DEC 10, 2025

### Matthew 6

<sup>1</sup> “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.

<sup>2</sup> “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.

<sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

<sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

### The Lord's Prayer

<sup>5</sup> “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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> “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.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts, <sup>as</sup> we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

<sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

### Fasting

<sup>16</sup> “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.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

<sup>18</sup> 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.

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### GIVING

1. Compare Matthew 6:1 to 5:16. Do you see a contradiction in Jesus's words? Why or why not?

**Matthew 5:16** - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that<sup>(b)</sup> they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**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.

2. Jesus begins a discussion of acts of righteousness. Look at the verses below and fill in the chart.

<b>Acts of Righteousness</b>	<b>What the Hypocrite Does</b>	<b>His Reward</b>	<b>What the Righteous Man does</b>	<b>His Reward</b>
Matt 6:2-4				
Matt 6:5-15				
Matt 6:16-18				

3. What was wrong with the way the hypocrites were giving according to verse 2?
4. What do you think Jesus means by, "When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (6:3)?
5. Why is the approach to giving important (6:2, 4)?
6. What does a modern-day hypocritical giver look like?
7. Should all giving be done in secret? Why or why not?

### **PRAYING**

8. According to Matthew 6:5, what was wrong with the prayers of the hypocrites?
9. Can a prayer request ever be used in a hypocritical way? Give an example.
10. **READ MATTHEW 26:39-44.** What is the difference between the type of prayer described in Matthew 6:7 and the persistent prayer of Jesus?
11. What do the following verses teach s about prayer?  
**John 9:31** - We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him  
**John 15:7** - If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you
12. If our Father knows what we need before we ask Him, why should we pray?
13. What makes our prayers acceptable to God?

## **FASTING**

14. What was the problem with the way the hypocrites of Jesus's day were fasting?

## **READ ISAIAH 58:1-12**

15. According to verses 1-4, why were the Israelites fasting?

16. In verse 5 list some of the things the people were doing when they were fasting.

17. In Isaiah 58:8-12, not each occurrence of "*if*" and "*then*". What are the end results of a godly fast?

18. Why do you think fasting is not widely practiced today?