

The Gospel of Matthew #50

Sermon on the Mount: chapter six:

LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Matthew 6:5-8

Introduction to chapter 6

He is teaching us to live *consistently* with what we say we believe:

- An unseen eternal Kingdom of God our Home
- A heavenly Father Who the center of our affections & Help
“Father” appears 3x in 48vss of ch 5 (1 in 15 vss)
“ ” ” 12x in 34 vss of ch6 (1 in 3 vss)

But we live as practical atheists in 2 basic ways:

1. Whose FAVOR we seek: v1-18

Egs: A. Giving (v2-4) B. **Praying (v5-15)** C. Fasting (v16-18)

2. What TREASURES we seek: v19-34

Two kinds of concerns: A. Acquisition (v19-24)

B. Anxiety (v25-34)

Each one cries, “More!”

Ch 5: righteousness → ch 6: **FAITH**

Example #2: 6:5-8: PRAYING

In chapter 6 Jesus is also showing even more deeply how much our hearts are affected by fallenness—even in something like praying!

I. How NOT to pray ONE: _____ prayer

Prayer is about **my** _____

A. To be seen by others

1. I am spiritual because I pray

2. I am spiritual because of how I pray

B. Why: they have already received their paltry reward

Pity them.

Not people whose prayer will change the world

II. How TO pray ONE:

A. _____

6:6 3 words that indicate the need for privacy:

1. your "private room"
2. "having shut the door"
3. "pray to your Father in secret"

Implications:

1. Familiar place that helps you quiet your heart
2. Remove all distractions: cell phone, computer, sounds

So public prayer meetings such as Thurs morn wrong?

B. Why: Father Who sees will reward you

Not a promise of receiving whatever you ask for

But a promise that you will be glad you sought Him

I. How NOT to pray TWO: _____ prayer

Prayer is about **my** _____

Do not think you force God by your techniques or length

Often think: get to the point!

You don't need to inform God of all the particulars (v8)

II. How TO pray TWO: Here is a model: v9-13

Heart of prayer is remembering that God is your Father,

by grace: v6, 8, 9