

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7

Pleasing the Father

Matthew 6:16-24

Who do you please?

- **Definition: “To give pleasure or satisfaction”**
- **Others?**
 - Politeness
 - Codependency - fear
- **Yourself?**
 - Selfishness, insensitivity
 - Anger and hurtfulness toward others
- **God?**

Matthew 6:16-24

When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:16-24 continued

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:16-24 continued

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

What is Christ teaching here?

- How we approach God
- What should we think about money
- What should we do with our mind

1. How do we approach God

- How religions get God's attention:
 - Religious rituals
 - Religious personalities
 - Personal morality
- We are to come to Him through Jesus Christ –
“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand”
(Romans 5:1-2).

Fasting

- **Showy religion of the Pharisees: giving, praying, fasting**
- **Fasting was to be a personal act of humility and repentance in a time of crisis – personal, national, spiritual, or material.**
- **Fasting has also been used as a means of self-punishment for your sins, as a means of earning your forgiveness.**
- **Only in Christ's death are our sins forgiven.**

God said through Isaiah

- **“Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. 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” (Isaiah 58:2-4).**

God said through Isaiah

- **“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness ... to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry ... Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily... (Isaiah 58:6-9)**

Clothes and looking religious

- What should we wear to church?
- Dressing for others? Self? God?
- Col. 3:12-14: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

2. What to do with your money

- **“No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24)**
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2. What to do with your money

- **“No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24)**
- **“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. By craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.” (1 Tim. 6:10)**

Our attitude in giving

- Some refuse to give
- Some give but don't want to
- Some give happily and joyfully
- "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).
- You will never be a happy Christian until you are happy in giving to the work of Christ.

3. What to do with your mind

- “The eye is the lamp of the body” (Matt. 6:22)
- Life is lived in our minds, in our hearts.
- Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (Prov. 4:23)
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Your heart

- Christ said, “But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these things defile a man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander. These are what defile a man...” (Matt. 15:18-20).

Your heart

- **Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.” (John 14:23-24)**

Your heart God's Home

- Say no to ungodly influences
- Focus on God, on His Word, on His love
- Let your imagination run toward love, grace, kindness, and holiness
- Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Phil. 4:8)