

Private Religious Righteousness: The Sharp Contrast to Moral Righteous Living

Matthew 6: 1-18 / February 22, 2020

“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. (6:1)

1. FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE POOR (6:2-4)

“Thus, **when** you give to the needy,

HOW NOT TO GIVE

- A) sound no trumpet before you, as the **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets,
- B) that they may be praised by others.
- C) Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

HOW TO GIVE

- A¹) But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
- B²) so that your giving may be in secret.
- C³) And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

2. PRAYING (6:5-15)

“And when you pray,

HOW NOT TO PRAY

- A) you must not be like the **hypocrites**. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners,
- B) that they may be seen by others.
- C) Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

HOW TO PRAY

- A¹) But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door
- B²) and pray to your Father who is in secret.
- C³) And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray,

HOW NOT TO PRAY

- A) do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do,
- B) for they think that they will be heard for their many words.
- C) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

HOW TO PRAY

- A) Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
- B) Your kingdom come,
- C) your will be done, / on earth as it is in heaven.

- A¹) Give us this day our daily bread,
- B²) and forgive us our debts, / as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- C³) And lead us not into temptation, / but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

3. FASTING (5:16-18)

“And when you fast,

HOW NOT TO FAST

- A) do not look gloomy like the **hypocrites**,
- B) for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.
- C) Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

HOW TO FAST

- A¹) But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,
- B²) that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.
- C³) And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

THE DISCIPLE’S PRAYER: KNOWING JESUS

Our Father: *God is Relational*

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For **you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:12-17)

In Heaven: *God is Sovereign*

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| 1. Give glory to father in heaven. 5:16 | 13. Jesus thanks his father in heaven for revealing secrets 11:25 |
| 2. Love your enemies as sons of the father in heaven 5:45 | 14. Do the will of your father in heaven 12:50 |
| 3. Be perfect as your father in heaven 5:48 | 15. Your father in heaven will uproot every plant not planted by him 15:13 |
| 4. No reward from your father in heaven 6:1 | 16. Peter’s confession of Jesus revealed by the father in heaven 16:17 |
| 5. Pray to your father in heaven 6:9 | 17. Do not despise little ones whom their father in heaven sees 18:10 |
| 6. Forgive as your father in heaven forgives you 6:14 | 18. Your father in heaven will not despise the little ones 18:14 |
| 7. Look at the birds your father in heaven feeds 6:26 | 19. Agree in prayer to be answered by your father in heaven 18:19 |
| 8. Trust your father in heaven to provide 6:32 | 20. Your father in heaven will not forgive if you do not forgive 18:35 |
| 9. Ask your father in heaven for good things 7:11 | 21. You have only one father in heaven 23:9 |
| 10. Do the will of your father in heaven 7:21 | |
| 11. Acknowledge Jesus as your father in heaven acknowledges you 10:32 | |
| 12. Deny Jesus and your father in heaven will not acknowledge you 10:33 | |

Hallowed by Your Name: *God is Holy*

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘**What is his name?**’ what shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”

God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ **This is my name forever**, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘**The LORD**, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”’ And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘**The LORD**, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the **LORD** our God.’

But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.” (Exodus 3:13-22)

Kingdom Comes: *God Reigns*

REPENTANCE:	“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2; 4:17)
PREACH:	And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (Matthew 4:23; 10:7-8)
POOR IN SPIRIT:	“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3)
PERSECUTION:	“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:10)
OBEDIENCE:	Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19; 7:21; 13:19)
EXCEED PHARISEES:	For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:20)
SEEK FIRST:	But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)
SECRETS:	And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. (Matthew 13:11)
WEEDS:	He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. (Matthew 13:24)
MUSTARD SEED:	He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. (Matthew 13:31)
LEAVEN:	He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” (Matthew 13:33)
TREASURE HIDDEN:	“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (Matthew 13:44)
GREAT VALUE:	“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46)
NET:	“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. (Matthew 13:47)
RETURN OF JESUS:	Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” (Matthew 16:28)
GREATEST:	At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:1-4)
FORGIVENESS:	“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. (Matthew 18:23)
WEALTH:	And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:23-24)
LABORERS:	“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. (Matthew 20:1)
TWO SONS:	Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. (Matthew 21:31)
WEDDING FEAST:	“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. (Matthew 22:2-3)
VIRGINS:	“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. (Matthew 25:1)
SHEEP & GOATS:	And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:33-34)
JESUS' RETURN:	I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. ” (26:29)

Will Be Done: *God is Righteous*

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

1. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”
2. And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”
3. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” (Matthew 26:36-46)

Daily Bread: *We Have Physical Needs*

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.” (Exodus 16:4-8)

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.” (2 Corinthians 8:13-15)

Debts: *We Have Spiritual Needs*

DEBTS

Release all debts the Seventh Year: “At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because **the LORD’s release has been proclaimed**. Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release. **But there will be no poor among you;** for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess—if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you. (Deuteronomy 15:1-6 ESV)

SLAVES

Free the Slaves the Seventh Year: “If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year **you shall let him go free from you**. (Deuteronomy 15:12 ESV)

Give Generously: And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the LORD your God has blessed you, you shall give to him. (Deuteronomy 15:13-14 ESV)

Remember Your Former Slavery: You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today. (Deuteronomy 15:15 ESV)

PLANTING

Do Not Sow the Seventh Year: The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. (Leviticus 25:1-5 ESV)

LAND

Return the Land: “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when **each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan**. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field. (Leviticus 25:8-19)

Temptation and Deliverance: *We Have Moral Needs*

TEMPTATION:

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

DELIVERANCE:

And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” (Exodus 14:10-18)