

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 6:

vs. 1-4:

Jesus here, says that we are not to do our acts of kindness to be seen of men. This does not contradict Matthew 5:16; because there we want people to give the praise to God, whereas here, the concern is praise for ourself. We should not make a big deal out of anything that we do, but simply do it quietly and allow God to reward us, rather than seeking the praise of men.

vs. 5-15:

Jesus teaches us how to pray. Our prayers should be done, not for the praise of men, but to speak with our Heavenly Father. In our prayers, we should not become repetitious (repeating the same words over and over in the same prayer, or pray the same prayer where we no longer think about what we are saying). Rather, we should praise God for who He is, pray for the growth of the Kingdom, depend on Him for our daily needs, forgiveness of sins, and guidance. Jesus reminds us that our forgiveness is based partly on how we treat and forgive others.

vs. 16-18:

Fasting is for the purpose of taking extra time to be with God in prayer, meditation, or Scripture reading. By not eating, we have extra time and learn to become less concerned about the physical things of life. Once again, we are not to fast in a way that we will receive the praise of men, but only in a manner which will bring us closer to Christ.

vs. 19-24:

Jesus now speaks concerning our priorities in life. He instructs us to be more concerned and diligent to the things of His Kingdom, than we are to the things of this world. That which are done for Him, are the only things that will last through eternity! If we keep our eyes on Him, then we will do what is right. There is no way that we can serve the Lord and the world at the same time.

vs. 25-34:

Jesus comforts His disciples by teaching them not to worry for God will supply their needs. Their main concern is to keep the work of the Kingdom before them at all times and to strive for that. Jesus shows, through nature, how God so abundantly provides for all, and we need to simply trust Him.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 6:

1. What are we to be careful, not to do before men?
2. What will your Father, who sees in secret, do?
3. Where do hypocrites love to pray?
4. Where should we pray for the Fathers will to be done?
5. How are we to be forgiven?
6. When will the Father not forgive us?
7. Where are we to store up treasures and why?
8. What can we not serve two of?
9. What are we not to worry about?
10. What can we not add, even by worrying?
11. What are we to seek first?
12. What does each day have enough of?

BONUS:

1. What does this chapter teach about prayer?
2. What does this chapter teach about priorities?
3. What does this chapter teach about worry?