

Matthew 6:1-18 Sermon on the Mount B

- Give pray fast to the LORD

Big Idea: We are called to trust our Father in heaven to meet our needs and longings, who, through Jesus' provision, rewards those who sincerely trust him to provide.

Fallen Condition: We long for attention and affirmation from others and even use our spiritual activity to get others to think highly of us.

Christ Solution: Because the Father loves us, he sent Jesus to redeem us from our sin so we can be children of God.

Passage for reference: 6:1-18

6 "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 "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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The Lord's Prayer

⁵ "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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ "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. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. ^[d]

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Fasting

¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

Applying the Discovery Bible Study Method (Start here w/ your group)

Connect and Review

Spend 5-10 minutes on some of these questions

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties have you faced this week?
- How did you apply what you learned last week
- How did you experience God this past week?
- How can we pray for each other?

Read God’s Word

Leaders note: *you may want to let people know it is a long passage and encourage them to stay engaged. There is a point to reading it all at once and not breaking it up*

Have someone read the passage

Ask: are there any words or phrases they do not understand?

Explain confusing words as needed

- *examples: righteousness, law*

Have someone else read it a different version

Have Someone else retell the story in their own words

(Anyone want to add to that?)

Discuss God's Word

Leader's note: As you go through these questions, give them space to talk about the passage and see where the Holy Spirit leads the conversation. By the end, you want to help them discover the big idea, fallen condition and Christ solution.

In this passage...

...what did you like?

... what surprised you?

... what confused you? Why?)

What does this passage tell us about ...

... God?

... Jesus?

... Holy Spirit?

Additional questions if helpful:

- Why do you think Jesus calls God our "Father"?
- What might be the significance of the repetition of vs 4, 6, and 18? What point do you think Jesus might be trying to make?

What does this passage tell us about...

... people?

... the relationship between God and people?

Additional questions if helpful:

- Re-read verses 1, 2, 5, and 16. What does this tell us about the nature of people?
- How have you seen people do spiritual things in order to get other people's attention or praise?
- What do you do to be seen, noticed or affirmed by others?
- Why do you think we do that?

- According to the Bible, where does our value come from?
 - How might these verses help us answer this question?
 - Genesis 1:26-27 - created by God in his image
 - John 3:16 - Loved so much God that he gave Jesus
 - Galatians 4:4-6 - Jesus gave his life to redeem us
 - 1 John 3:1-3 - God's children - loved and made pure

- According to Jesus how should we give, pray and fast? **Why?**
- How have you experienced this?
- How might knowing you are forgiven, adopted by God and made pure affect how you give, pray and fast?
- How has giving, praying and fasting grown your trust in the LORD and your intimacy with him?

Obey God's Word

How does this passage change the way you view

... God?

... yourself?

... other people?

How should this passage affect how you think and live?

What specifically will you do differently this week?

Who can you tell what you learned?

If you have time you can discuss the bonus question below, or, maybe better, send it to your group a couple days later for them to consider on their own. This could be a great mid-week reminder.

Bonus: How might Zeph 3:14-17 affect how we understand God's view of us?

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.