

Kingdom Living

Studies From the Sermon on the Mount

Public Piety & Prayer

Matthew 6:1-18

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“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“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 today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

A. Jesus Teaches Us to Practice Piety for God’s Approval Not Human Approval (v. 1)

1. The Observance (vv. 2a, 5a, 16a)
2. Prohibition (vv. 2b, 5b, 16b)
3. Intent (vv. 2c, 5c, 16c)
4. Present Reward (vv. 2d, 5d, 16d)
5. Alternative Observance (vv. 3–4a, 6a, 17–18a)
6. Father’s reward (vv. 4b, 6b, 18b)

B. Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

1. Prayer Isn’t About Manipulating God (v. 7)
2. The Father (v. 9a)
 - God Intimately Loves His Children
 - God is Sovereignly Powerful
3. The Name (v. 9b)
 - May God’s Name be Honored Above All
4. The Kingdom (v. 10)

- May God's Will be Accomplished in His Earthly Kingdom Ruled by Christ

5. The Bread (v. 11)

- May We Trust God for Daily Provision

6. The Forgiveness (v. 12)

- May We Extend and Receive Forgiveness

7. The Temptation (v. 13)

- May We Be Kept and Delivered