MASTER KEYS

Dr. John Polis | 11.01.26

Matthew 6:1-18 NASB1995 *"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.* ***2*** *"So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.* ***3*** *But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,* ***4*** *so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.* ***5*** *"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.* ***6*** *But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.* ***7*** *"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.* ***8*** *So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.* ***9*** *"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is 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 do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']* ***14*** *For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* ***15*** *But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.* ***16*** *"Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.* ***17*** *But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face* ***18*** *so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus taught his followers how to live the most abundant and productive lives as the Sons and Daughters of God the Father. In fact He only taught them what He Himself had learned from he Father, making Him the prime example of the Christian Life.

John 5:19-20 NKJV *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does*

*in like manner. **20** For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

Three keys Jesus taught his followers, Expectations, Responsibilities, Reward.

1. The Father has EXPECTATIONS of His Children. He speaks of 3 in this passage

    - "When not If" you give.

        ***Matthew 6:1-4 NASB1995** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. **2** "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **3** But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

    - "When you pray not if"

        ***Matthew 6:5-7 NASB1995** When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **6** But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. **7** "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.*

    - "When you fast not if"

        ***Matthew 6:16-18 NASB1995** "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **17** But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face **18** so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

    A. Why does He have expectations?

        - He created us in His Image

            ***Genesis 1:26 NKJV** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

        - He knows our potential, what He has put within us

            ***Ephesians 2:10 NKJV** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

- He has an ultimate purpose - He knows what will bring the BEST out of us.

  Philippians 2:13 NKJV *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

- Jesus lived with an assurance of His purpose

  1 John 3:8 NKJV *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

B. As parents we are charged with the development of our children as well

   Proverbs 22:6 NKJV *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

   - We place EXPECTATIONS on them to bring about physical, emotional, intellectual and Spiritual maturity so they can also fulfill their God given purpose in life.

     Ephesians 6:1-3 NKJV *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* ***2*** *"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:* ***3*** *"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*

   - "left to himself lacking guidance, structure and restraint and is allowed to do

     Proverbs 29:15 NKJV *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

   - Whatever they please. Shame - public and personal disgrace.
   - Rod and reproof give wisdom and drives out foolishness.
   - Thinking we can brake the rules and escape the consequences.

     Proverbs 22:15 NKJV *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

C. Our Heavenly Father is not a neglectful parent - He does not leave us to ourselves.

D. HIS ROD IS HIS WORD, He doesn't use the devil to teach His kids. Holy Spirit is our Teacher.

   Hebrews 12:5-7 NKJV *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;* ***6*** *For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."* ***7*** *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

   John 16:13 NKJV *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

2. The Father has given us RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. **Giving.**

- Faithfully

> ***1 Corinthians 4:2 NKJV*** *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*
>
> ***1 Corinthians 16:2 NKJV*** *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

- Proportionately

> ***1 Corinthians 16:2 NKJV*** *On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

- Cheerfully - "prompt and willing"

> **2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NKJV** But this *I say:* He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

B. **Praying.**

1. *Gods will to be done.*

> ***Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV*** *In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread.* ***12*** *And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.* ***13*** *And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

- Bread - dissemination of God's Word
- Forgiveness - God has forgiven all who trust Christ.

> ***Ephesians 1:7 NKJV*** *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*

- Holiness - freedom from sin
- Protection - delivered from Satans authority.

2. Results in the expansion of God's Kingdom on earth.

C. Fasting.

1. Abstaining from food for a period of time. Varies for individuals based on health conditions.
    - Short fasts - John Wesley every Wed and Friday, sundown till 3pm next day.
    - Daniel - 10 and 21 days
    - Moses and Jesus 40 days
2. Benefits of fasting - manage blood sugar, inflammation, Heart health, weight loss, cancer prevention.
3. Food can become a god. Fasting is a sign of spiritual hunger that supersedes the desire for food.

    Philippians 3:17-19 NKJV *Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.* ***18*** *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:* ***19*** *whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

    Job 23:12 NKJV *I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

3. The Father will REWARD us openly. (3 ways to SEEK GOD.)

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

A. Reward of GIVING

Luke 6:38 NKJV *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

Galatians 6:6-10 NKJV *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.* ***7*** *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* ***8*** *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.* ***9*** *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.* ***10*** *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

B. Reward of PRAYER - Our desires are granted; God's will is done

Mark 11:24 NKJV *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

> ***1 John 5:14-15 NKJV*** *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

C. Reward of FASTING

> ***Isaiah 58:6-9 NKJV*** *"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? **7** Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? **8** Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. **9** Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,*

We begin our monthly fast 5 and 7pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 6pm. Sign up sheet for Deacons and Elders at Connection Desk. We must lead by example.