



PRACTICING OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS



MATTHEW 6

2023



G I T K O G & B F



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ANXIETY IN A NEW YEAR

Everybody's telling me what I need to do, where I need to go, what I need to say." This line from Sandra McCracken's song *Hear You* could not be more true, especially when a new year rolls around. Whether it's a workout or diet, a vacation spot, or a well-spoken, people pleasing post, everyone is telling us, "You should..."

But what we really need, McCracken says, is "to hear Your [God's] voice."

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25-34, to not be anxious about anything: your life, your food, your drink, your body, or your clothing, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all of these things.

Instead, we are to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. When we do this, he promises that all of the things that we need (see above) will be added, or rewarded to us.



SEEKING THE KINGDOM



But how do we seek the kingdom of God? By practicing our righteousness (see Matt 6:1-24) which in reality is Christ's righteousness (see Rom 1:17).

We, who are united to and in Christ through faith, are expected seek the kingdom of God the same way in which Christ sought the kingdom of God-by practicing *his* righteousness, namely through the spiritual disciplines of giving, prayer, fasting, and loving his Father in heaven. This is why Jesus doesn't say, "If you give, pray, or fast," in Matthew 6, but, "When you give....When you pray....When

you fast." These are truly things we should do. In the same way we are expected to forgive because he has first forgiven us, love because he first loved us, and humble ourselves because he humbled himself first, we are expected to give, pray, fast, and love because he did it first and still does it in order to bring God's kingdom to the earth.

And in the same way he was rewarded with the provisions for his needs, we can be confident that we who follow him will, too. Instead of anxiously seeking *these things*, we will have everything we need added to us when we, like Jesus, seek first our Father's kingdom.



PRACTICING OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

So, what we are asking you to do is to spend this first month of 2023, practicing the righteousness that you have received from Christ. We're asking you to use this month to set your mind and direct your heart for a year of living like Christ—a year of giving, praying, fasting, and loving. A year of seeking *first* the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and *then* trusting your Father to meet your needs. It is our prayer that through our corporate, yet secret, working out of

our righteousness that our Father who sees in secret will reward us. It is our plea that he will reward us not just with our important, yet earthly and temporary needs, but that he will reward us with his greatest desire and our greatest need: to see his eternal kingdom come and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven—to see his glory cover the earth as waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14)



THE PLAN & RESOURCES



GATHER

Come to church every Sunday to hear teaching on Matthew 6 (text included in this guide).



GROUP

Discuss the questions and sermon in your DGroup or Connection Group.



GO

Practice your righteousness according to how the Lord instructs and leads.



READ

Continue or join in on year two of our two-year reading plan.*



MEMORIZE

Memorize Matthew 6 using the Dwell App.**



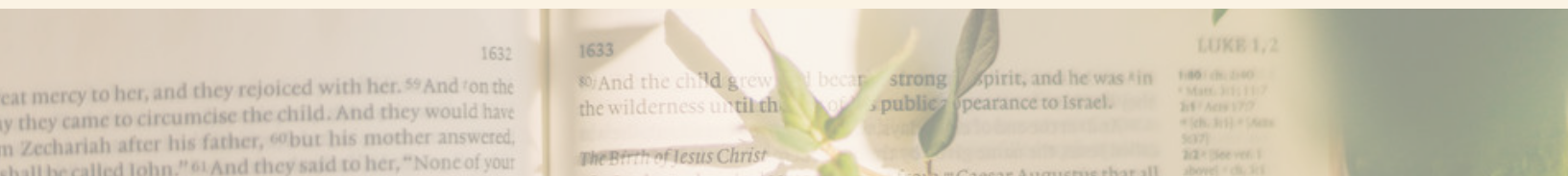
LEARN MORE

Learn more about the spiritual disciplines through our next C3 Seminary class starting February 6.

*available in the C3 App

**Free subscription available on our resource page

In the days of *his* flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
[Hebrews 5:7 ESV]



Giving like Jesus

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.



Praying like Jesus

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:

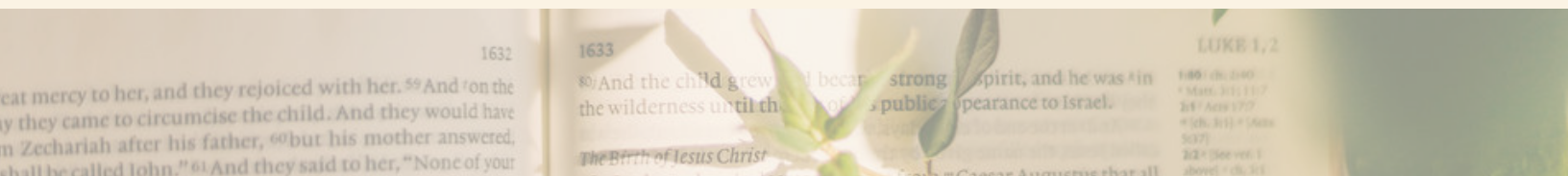
“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

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.

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 like Jesus

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.

Loving like Jesus

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.



Seeking First God's Kingdom like Jesus

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?[g] 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.





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C3 SEMINARY | SPRING 2023



THE DISCIPLES'
HABITS

A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES CLASS
FEB 6 - APR 17

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