

Matthew 6

Jesus

Sermon on the Mount: Ch's 5, 6 and 7

- **Ch. 5** Jesus destroys "I'm a good person" mindset most have
 1. Anger is Murder
 2. Lust is Adultery
 3. Slander is damnable
 4. Love enemies/Bless those who curse you/Do good to those who hate you

Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- **Ch. 6** Jesus dismantles **self-righteous** motives of Religious Leaders
- **Sermon on Mount:** Mat. 5,6, and 7 to be read/understood/taught **as a unit**

Jesus is Relentless as He exposes Man-Made Religion for what it is...fake
Many people say they hate hypocrisy...**So does Jesus**

I. Self-Righteousness

Working Definitions

- **Pharisees:** Religious pride/arrogance symbolic of all Man-made religiosity...
 1. Never called/given authority by God
 2. Twisted relationship w/God into set of cold religious rules
 3. Modern Pharisaical religions include...
 - Mormonism
 - Catholicism
 - Seventh Day Adventism
 - JW's Watchtower Society
 - Any group attempting replace blood Christ alone w/ system of works
 - Any individual would answer why heaven "because I'm a good person"

No religion can save. No amount of good deeds can save. Only Jesus saves
Read the Bible for yourself and only one conclusion...**the need to come to Him**

- **Religion** Man's attempt to reach up to God through "good" deeds. [See Ch.5]
- **Relation** God reaching down to man by giving His Son Jesus to die for our sins

1 Peter 1:18 [Paraphrase] Sinners cannot be redeemed by silver or gold or by aimless traditions...but by the precious blood of Jesus alone. Aimless Traditions; i.e. devoid of force, truth, success or good result. Vain religiosity. Began in Eden covering sin w/ fig leaf

Colossians 2:23 [Paraphrase] Religion has no value in the indulgence of the flesh.

2 Timothy 3:5 [Paraphrase] Man-made religion has the appearance of godliness but powerless to help

Unless the Pharisees turned to Christ alone...they were lost

- Believed they had no need of a Savior... thus they did not have one

[Jesus] is the physician for any form of disease, except that form of disease which consists in not being diseased. [Spurgeon]

- **Righteous Religious** did not appreciate the “great unwashed”

Matthew 2:15 Now it happened, as [Jesus] was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and **sinners?**" 17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners...**

- Jesus didn't rail on anyone **except religious leaders**
- Self-righteousness makes Jesus sick...

Revelation 3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will **vomit you out of My mouth.** 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..."

The religious man is blinded by pride and cannot see the gravity of their sin.
Pride alone is the sin of devil [NJC]

- **Jesus uncovers:** False-motives behind 3 disciplines of the Pharisees
 1. Good deeds
 2. Praying
 3. Fasting...

1 "Take heed that you do not do your **charitable deeds** before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have **glory from men.** Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

- **Good deeds:** Don't do them in order to be seen?

Mathew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that **they may see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

This does not contradict His previous command to let your light so shine before men. Although Christians are to be seen doing good works, they must not do good works simply to be seen. [Guzik]

Don't let your left hand know what the right is doing?

Be so led by the Spirit that you don't even know you're doing a good deed

Keep the thing so secret that even you yourself are hardly aware that you are doing anything at all praiseworthy. Let God be present, and you will have enough of an audience. [Spurgeon]

Do good only to be seen by men...being seen by men is your only reward
Do good secretly...be rewarded openly by God in way **very evident to you**

- **Hypocrites:** Pharisees

1. **Location** Synagogues/Streets
2. **Motive** To be seen by men as BGG's Reward vanishes like smoke
3. **Reward** New Pew/Tile/Room named after us. Enjoy the fading applause

- Do good to those unable to repay us...

Luke 14:12 [Jesus] "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they **cannot repay you**; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

- Self-promotion prevents reward from God
- Self-righteousness blocks **saving faith...**

John 5:44 **How can you believe**, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

- Jesus lays bare religious motivation for Good Deeds. **Seen by men.**

Religious Buffoons search the crowd for someone who might be watching them do good
Were some Pharisees listening?

SUMMARY Good Deeds Be so led/so compelled by Spirit that we don't even know we are doing good. God sees and we will be rewarded now and for eternity.

Matthew 5:20 ... unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by **no means enter** the kingdom of heaven.

5 "And **when you pray**, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

- **Prayer**

1. Go to a private place

2. Pray secretly be rewarded openly by God. Ways very evident to you
3. Don't chant/Count beads/KJV. Is that how we talk to our earthly father?

- **Hypocrites:** Lit. Pretenders/Make-believers; i.e. Pharisees **"love to pray..."**

1. **Location** Synagogues/Streets [Stadium?]
2. **Motive** To be seen by men. Reward vanishes like smoke
3. **Method** Vain repetition/Many words/waxing eloquently

Ecclesiastes 5:2 God is in heaven, and you are on earth; therefore, let your words be few.

- Religious Leaders rip off widows beginning **with long prayers...**

Luke 20:46 "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 47 who devour widows' houses, and for a **pretense make long prayers**. These will receive greater condemnation."

- **E.g.** Oh God You know how we need new carpet in the Synagogue....

8 "Therefore **do not be like them**. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

- Jesus lays bare motivation of Religious Leaders discipline of prayer

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

- **Therefore...**

1. Since God is your Father and you are His kid...
2. Since He already knows your needs... pray like this...

9b... 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.

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| ▪ Our Father not] | Relationship | Child to a Father [Pharisees did not] |
| ▪ Hallowed Your Name | Holiness | Praise before asking |
| ▪ Your will be done | God's Rule | Heaven/Earth |
| ▪ Give us daily bread | Word | Daily sustenance. Everyday |
| ▪ Forgive us | Confession | Forgiven as we forgive |
| ▪ Lead me | Direction | Toward good/away from evil/devil |

For Yours is the kingdom/power/the glory forever. Amen.

14 "For **if you forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But **if you do not forgive** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Goes back revisits forgiveness from v12...Why?

Those who do not forgive will not enter Heaven

- Forgive and you **will be forgiven**/Do not forgive you **will not be forgiven**

Refusing to forgive is clear evidence that a person is not saved no matter what they say
If we have been forgiven, we will forgive. **Period.**

Matthew 18:34 [To one who refused to forgive] ...his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if **each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother** his trespasses."

- **Be perfect:** Heart change needed/Salvation needed

James 2:13 ...judgment is **without mercy** to the one who has shown no mercy.

- **What happens when we don't forgive?**

1. **Torture on earth:** Drinking poison and hoping other dies
2. **Merciless Judgement Eternally.** No heaven if die refusing to forgive

Jesus died for your sins for your sins and to save you from both temporal/eternal torment

Forgive from your Heart: Believers have a New Heart but...

- **Does not mean** Forgiveness comes easily/naturally/without pain/dying to self
- **Does mean** We will not live in a constant state of unforgiveness know Him

The devil wants to keep believers in that state of unforgiveness. Bitter/Useless
This is the fight of the Spiritual Warrior...Battle to forgive when the devil/flesh say no

Key: Continually remember the price Jesus paid as He forgave us

Then likewise forgive the one who hurt you. 70 x 7

- **Q.** Why did Jesus go back to forgiveness? **A.** Mark of a saved person. Paternity test

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **God in Christ forgave you.**

- **Jesus revisits forgiveness:** Forgive or you will not be forgiven
- **Jesus dismantles/discounts:** Motives of Pharisees disciplines so proud of...
 1. Good deeds Men to see. Nothing to do with God
 2. Prayer Men to see. Nothing to do with God
 3. **Fasting...**

16 "Moreover, **when you fast**, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.** 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will **reward you openly.**

- **Fasting:** Denying body food for period of time. Denying flesh/Allowing Spirit to lead

1. Anoint your head
 2. Wash your face
 3. Don't tell anyone...only you and God should know
- Father knows your sacrifice/reward you openly; i.e. way very evident to you
 - **Hypocrites:** Pharisees fasted Monday/Thursdays of each week
 1. Sad Countenance
 2. Disfigure Faces in pain
 3. **Solicit a response:** What's the matter? I'm fasting before God today
 - Nothing wrong with good deeds/prayer/fasting
 - Just not like them...

Matthew 5:20 ... unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

- **Pharisees sought earthly rewards...**said believe in Heaven but didn't live like it

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.

Everyone is storing something somewhere for later: Temporal/Eternal

- **Laying up treasures on earth** Temporal Rot

Luke 12:16 [Jesus] "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, '**Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;** then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is **not rich toward God.**" Never saw a hearse pulling a you haul

- Laying up treasures on earth Temporal Rot
- **Lay-up treasures for Heaven** Eternal Never fade away

1 Peter 1:4 ...inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven...

- Things motivated by love for God/man, led by God's Spirit and for His glory

God will not let his people work for nothing; and though the reward is not of debt, but of grace, yet verily there is a reward for the righteous. [Spurgeon]

Our motives in the Christian life should be both right and genuine. God is the Faithful One. We are to love Him and serve Him because He is God—not because of the gracious things He does for us or for the rewards He promises us! **However**, it should be said that God does not expect us to forget or ignore the gracious future promises He has made to us. It is

a glorious truth that if we believe God and honor His Word, if we walk by faith in love and obedience, **there will be eternal rewards for each of us** in that great coming day. [Tozer]

**Where you treasure is there your heart will be also
The place we store our stuff reveals our true citizenship**

- **What do we set our sights on...**God or Stuff? Earth or Heaven?

22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 **"No one can serve two masters;** for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- **Lamp of the Body is the eye:** What consumes you

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| 1. Bad eye | Consumed with acquiring things of earth | Darkness/Worry |
| 2. Good eye | Consumed with seeking things of God | Light/Peace |

- Can't serve both God and Stuff...**but you will serve one**

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And **the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

25 "Therefore...

- Since you can't serve God/Stuff...**serve God**

As you serve God...don't worry about stuff. You will have enough stuff

25b... [Therefore...] I say to you, **do not worry** 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, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

1 Peter 5:7 cast... all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- **Command:** Don't worry. Imperative. Not suggestion. Not recommendation. Command

1. Don't worry about your life
2. Don't worry about food/drink/clothing

Life is more than looking around the next corner for the next thing. Filling up the worry bucket.

Dwelling on what you don't have instead of thankful for what you do.

- **Look at Birds:** Study. Having fun. Living life. Loving life. Enjoying worry-free life

No thought of how going to eat knowing God will provide...and there're just birds

26... Are you not of more value than they?

- **What is your value to God?** What are you worth to God?

Worth is determined by what someone is willing to pay; e.g. I believe my car worth million
God was willing to purchase you from sin/death with the Blood of His only begotten Son

- **Logic:** If God values us as much as His Son's precious blood...why do we worry

27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

- **Flowers:** Jesus points to flowers on the mountainside...
 1. Flowers are known not to worry at all...and look how God dresses them
 2. Flowers are more gorgeous than the attire of the richest man in the world
 3. Flowers are only around a short time yet look at God's care/petals/stem/colors

31 "Therefore **do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly **Father knows** that you need all these things.

- Father knows best. He's got this. He's got everything
- **Spend your time living for the Kingdom...**

33 But **seek first the kingdom** of God and **His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

- Do not worry about tomorrow/Enough to deal with today

John 16:33 ... in Me you may have peace. In the world **you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Use energy you would waste worrying and...

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| 1. Seek the Kingdom of God | Eternal Perspective/Waiting for Kingdom |
| 2. Seek Righteousness of God | Good deeds/Pray/Fast... to glory of God |

Stop worrying. Start Living. Glorify God. How?

Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Love others as yourself

- **Ch. 5** Jesus destroys **"I'm a good person"** mentality of most on broad road.

Perfect?

- **Ch. 6** Jesus rips to shreds **self-righteous** motives of Religion. Seen by men.

Review: Sermon on Mount. Leaving everyone completely naked/vulnerable/desiring to be covered. **That is the purpose.**

One more chapter to go.