

# Sermon on the Mount

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## Blind Spots and Hidden Treasures

- Jesus talks about the difference between outward religious practices and genuine devotion from the heart.
- He is emphasizing righteousness and the danger of hypocrisy.
- Authentically seeking God's glory rather than human praise.

**Matthew 6:16 (ESV)** 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.

### **Fasting:**

- ❖ The voluntary abstinence from food in order to seek God.
  - ❖ It is an act of worship, and creates a dependence on God rather than vices, pleasure and self-reliance.
  - ❖ It empties the flesh of strength and power and denies it of its desires in order that the spirit of a person can be filled with the presence and power of God.
  - ❖ It is coupled with prayer and even mourning.
- The law required one fast a year, the Day of Atonement.

- Fasting was practiced more frequently than that in both the OT and NT.
- "Break the Trumpets" – turning acts of devotion into performances.

**Matthew 6:17-18 (ESV)** 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.

- The kingdom work you do, fasting and prayer should be protected from becoming spectacles.
- Anoint your head, wash your face and keep on living.
- Ecclesiastes 9:7-8

***HAVE REGULAR TIMES OF FASTING AND PRAYER TO DEEPEN DEPENDENCE ON GOD***

**Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)** 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.

You have a choice with where you reap rewards and benefits.

Salt loses its saltiness. Faith becomes ineffective if it doesn't value eternity.

Luke 12 – The parable of the Rich Foolish man

**Luke 12:15 (ESV)** And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

**Luke 12:20-21 (ESV)** 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- The heart follows what it treasures the most.
- God gives you a new heart.
- The heart is the center of a persons being – emotion, reason, will.
- When your heart changes, your vision and focus change.

**Matthew 6:22-23 (ESV)** 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!

### **The Eye:**

- The conduit through which light enters the body.
- It illuminates or reveals the quality a persons inner life.
- A healthy eye has clear vision – loyalty and devotion to God.
- Unhealthy eye has impaired vision – corruption.
- Believers are called to be light, but darkness in the heart dims that light.

## REGULAR SPIRITUAL “EYE EXAMS” – CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND REALIGNING FOCUS ON GOD’S WORD

**Matthew 6:24 (ESV)** 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.

- There cannot be a duality in disciples.
- Divided loyalty is impossible.
- Our actions reveal our true master.

**Serve (*douleúō*)** – the work of a slave not an employee.

**Money (*mammōnás*)** – Mammon is not a deity but the personification of greed and materialism.

- Jesus did not say do not have any material possessions.
- Do not be possessed by the materials.
- Jesus faced this same temptation in the wilderness by Satan in Matthew 4.
- “I will give you all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.”

**CHOOSE ONE DAY THIS WEEK TO PRAY AND FAST**