

“Pure Simplicity”. Matthew 6:16-24

Series: “Pure Discipleship in a Corrupt World” Part 10
April 11th, 2021. First Baptist Church, L.A. Dr. Scott Arnold

Key Thought: Pure discipleship follows the simple and profound faith of Jesus as He trusted God our Heavenly Father. Rituals are not to be a replacement for a vital relationship with God. Materialism will not satisfy the longings of the heart that is only filled by God’s love and our love for one another.

I. Jesus taught the disciples purity of motive in fasting (16-18)

- A. Fast without fanfare by focusing inward and upward. (16)
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.
- B. Fast to commune with God our Heavenly Father. (17-18)
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.

II. Jesus taught disciples a simplicity of lifestyle (19-21)

- A. Do not store up temporal possessions (19) **19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**
- B. Store up eternal treasures in heaven (20) **20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**
- C. Will our focus be on the temporal or the eternal? (21) **21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

III. Pure discipleship is the result of enlightened faith (22-23)

- A. A Healthy Heart of faith gives light to the body (22) **22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.**

B. An unhealthy heart of fear brings darkness to the body. (23) **23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

IV. Pure discipleship is the result of worshiping and serving God (24)

- A. Obeying God completely is essential (24a)
24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.
- B. Serving God is not congruent with serving money (24b)
-You cannot serve both God and money.

Application Point: The Call of God our Heavenly Father is to believe in Jesus Christ and follow His lead in simple living and devotion. Jesus modeled spiritual disciplines that help us to prioritize God’s Kingdom and righteousness first, the result will involve transformation, renewal, and the reward of blessings in relationship to God.

Questions:

1. What are some ways fasting can be done with food and in other matters of life? (v. 16)
2. How can living with less be beneficial for one’s life? How could simplicity help our society and planet?
3. What are some practical steps you can take toward simplifying your life? What would Jesus advise you to do?
4. How can we change our focus as it pertains to the treasures of time, talent, and financial resources? (v.19-21)
5. Why is it vital that people be discerning about what they watch on the internet or television? How does this relate to what Jesus taught about regarding the eye as the lamp of the body? (v.22-23)
6. What challenges you about what Jesus taught about serving God and the issue of money? (v.24)