

The Gospel of Matthew

Booklet 07 – Two Lessons

Lesson 17 - Matthew 6: 1-15

Lesson 18 - Matthew 6: 16-21

Piety and Prayer



International ESL/Bible Lessons
Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series.

I also use Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 17 - Matthew 6:1-15 Piety and Prayer

6 “Be careful / not to practice your righteousness / in front of others / to be seen by them. / If you do, / you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, / do not announce it with trumpets, / as the hypocrites do / in the synagogues and on the streets, / to be honored by others. / Truly I tell you, / they have received their reward in full. / 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. / Then your Father, / who sees what is done in secret, / will reward you.

Prayer

⁵ “And when you pray, / do not be like the hypocrites, / for they love to pray / standing in the synagogues / and on the street corners / to be seen by others. / Truly I tell you, / they have received their reward in full. / ⁶ But when you pray, / go into your room, / close the door / and pray to your Father, / who is unseen. / Then your Father, / who sees what is done in secret, / will reward you. / ⁷ And when you pray, / do not keep on babbling like pagans, / for they think they will be heard / because of their many words. / ⁸ Do not be

like them, / for your Father knows / what you need / before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, / is how you should 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 today 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 the evil one/

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people / when they sin against you, / your heavenly Father will also forgive you. / ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, / your Father will not forgive your sins.

Vocabulary and Related Words

1. Piety: Religious devotion. Goodness.
2. Hypocrites: Someone pretending to have high principles. A phony!
3. Needy: Poor. Those who are in need. Indigent.
4. Synagogue: Church of the Jewish people.
5. Babbling: Murmur continuously. To speak incoherently. Sound of loud unintelligible voices.

6. Hallowed: Respected. Blessed.

Questions

1. How should we pray?
2. What is the place of the reward motive in Christian life?
3. What is the reason you should not *practice your righteousness in front of others*?
4. How do you think of a person who makes a big show of being “good”?
5. Giving to the needy is assumed here. It is not If, but when. How do you help others in your country?
6. Why is the prayer taught by Jesus considered and called *The Lord’s Prayer*?

Notes

1. Here Jesus telling his disciples not to be ostentatious in their charity or their prayer life. Ostentatious means to be rich and showy, to be sure you have an audience. This means that all the attention you demand for being “religious” is for the audience, not for God.
2. True piety is inconspicuous, as compared to false piety. The reward motive is ever present in all of life. If I do this, what do I receive back? Jesus says there is reward for good living: Matthew 10:42 says that faithful service will receive its reward. But that is

generally inward, as in joy, satisfaction, or a heavenly reward from God. Jesus was not thinking of material reward.

3. Barclay says the rewards of Christianity are satisfaction, still more work to do, and the vision of God.
 - *Satisfaction*: an inner joy. A deep sense of accomplishment.
 - *Still more work to do*: A task well done does not bring rest and comfort, but more demands and strenuous effort. Think of a violinist who has achieved a solo status. That person must work harder to keep up and above the last performance. Otherwise they fade away. This is true in all professions.
 - *A vision of God*: A person who does not know God hasn't a clue. But those who seek to walk with God, and to have Him in their life grow closer to God without fear and with radiant joy.
4. Alms is another word for charity or giving to the needy or poor.
5. The Jews required three things of good Jews: prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Today we are looking at the first two.
6. Remember Jesus was teaching his disciples, not the general public. He is training them for service, and he wants them to fully understand what service really means.
7. Why do people give to the needy?
 - A sense of duty
 - For prestige
 - Feeling compelled to do so from compassion and love of others

8. How not to pray:

- Memorized or rote prayer. Daily repeated prayers at certain times.
- Prayer for the audience, rather than to God.
- Sharing prayer needs is not a time to gossip.
- A long, long, long prayer that shows ability to speak or preach.

9. Rules of Jesus for prayer:

All prayer must be offered to God

God is a God of love who answers prayer.

10. The order of *The Lord's Prayer*

- The first three petitions have to do with God and with the glory of God
- The second three petitions have to do with man's needs and necessities

The Lord's Prayer

King James Version (KJV)

These are the words from the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, taken from the King James Bible (Authorized version of the scriptures)

⁹ Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

(King James Version - 1611)

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 18 - Matthew 6:16-21 Fasting and Treasures

6:16 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. / 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.

Treasures in Heaven

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, / where moths and vermin destroy, / and where thieves break in and steal. / 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. / 21 For where your treasure is, / there your heart will be also.

Vocabulary

1. Fast: To abstain from food, often for medical or religious reasons
2. Somber: Dark and gloomy. Serious and sad.
3. Hypocrite: Someone pretending to have high principles. To say one thing and do another. Two-faced.
4. Disfigure: Scar. Mutilate. Spoil or ruin somebody's appearance.

5. Treasures: Riches. Jewels or precious objects. Something highly valued.
6. Moths and vermin: Insects or bugs

Questions

1. What customs of fasting are present in your country in the religions?
2. Do people ostentatiously fast? How?
3. What are some treasures that can rust, or be eaten by termites or vermin, or are a waste of money?
4. How do thieves operate today to take our treasures?

Notes

1. Fasting as a religious custom among the Jews and Moslems lasts from dawn until sunset. At the time of Jesus, there was only one fast day, the *Day of Atonement*. (Leviticus 16:31). This was a national Day of Atonement or making amends or reconciliation between God and people.
2. Jews also had a great many days of personal fasting, as in those connected with mourning death of a loved one, and those who fasted in preparation for a religious revelation. Sometimes fasting is an appeal to God.
3. Fasting is also good for the health. We all eat too much. It is good to teach self-discipline, and it keeps us from being slaves of habit.

It helps us with the ability to do without things, and it helps us appreciate what we have.

4. *Thieves can dig through* the walls of the mud homes of people. Often they stole that way. Today, thieves come in through the roof, the windows or an unlocked door.
5. “Jesus ends this section by stating that where a man’s treasure is, his heart is there also. If everything that a man values and sets his heart upon is on earth, then he will have no interest in any world beyond this world; if all through his life a man’s eyes are on eternity, then he will evaluate lightly the things of this world.
6. Jesus never said that this world was unimportant; but he said and implied over and over again that its importance is not in itself, but in that to which it leads. This world is not the end of life, it is a stage on the way; and therefore a man should never lose his heart to this world and to the things of this world. His eyes ought to be forever fixed on the goal beyond.

