

Matthew 6:14-24

- **REVIEW...**

- o The Sermon of the King...
 - The LONGEST public teaching recorded in the New Testament - **Matthew 5-7**
 - Teaching disciples – those who want to learn – how to be CITIZENS of the KINGDOM of God!
- o Poor in Spirit...
 - Beginning with the Beatitudes – Jesus established we are POOR in Spirit...
 - Because in order to be GOOD – we would have to keep every JOT and TITTLE of the LAW...
 - Jesus went on to amplify FIVE of the Laws of Moses [out of 613] ...
 - Proving we are NOT good – because we are NOT perfect like our Father in Heaven...
 - And knowing that is what allows us to be a Citizen of the Kingdom – because it drives us to Jesus!
- o Relationship with God
 - Having established how to become a Citizen of the Kingdom [we are NOT good]
 - Jesus went on to define how to LIVE as a CITIZEN – how to RELATE to God in SIX ways...
 - FIRST - we are not to GIVE like unbelievers [trumpet] – for the glory of men...
 - We are to give in secret – because it shows a heart for God...
 - SECOND – we are not to PRAY like unbelievers – vain repetition...
 - God already knows what we need – therefore Jesus gave us a MODEL for prayer!

- **3RD – FORGIVENESS... vs. 14-15**

- o 1st – Forgiving others... vs. 14
 - Conditional...
 - For if you forgive men their trespasses - your heavenly Father will also forgive you!
 - The THIRD way we RELATE to God – is through FORGIVENESS...
 - There are several [seven] words in the NT that describe SIN...
 - TRESPASS [παράπτωμα] – means to FALL or to STUMBLE [accidental]
 - If someone does something ACCIDENTALLY to us – and we FORGIVE them...
 - Then God will also FORGIVE [future] us when FALL or STUMBLE!
 - What to Forgive...
 - A servant owed his Master EIGHT billion pesos [10 thousand talents] - **Matthew 18:23-35**
 - Which makes the next statement obvious – he was not able to pay...
 - But the master wiped away the debt - he was completely forgiven...
 - But that man went out and would NOT forgive a fellow servant who owed 500 pesos!
 - If we focus on what how others have DONE to us – we become ANGRY...
 - But our problem is we are looking in the wrong direction...
 - When we consider all that Jesus has forgiven us – EVERYTHING...
 - How could we not FORGIVE someone what little they have done to us!
 - How many times...
 - When Peter asked the Lord how many times do we need to FORGIVE – **Matthew 18:21**
 - Jesus told Peter we must FORGIVE – 70x7 – a number that only appears ONE other place!
 - **Daniel 9:24** – “Seventy sets of seven [70x7] has been decreed... to bring an end to sin.”
 - How often are we to FORGIVE someone who sins against us – until there is no more SIN...
 - If they keep committing the same SIN – we keep FORGIVING...
 - There is NO limit to how many times – we must FORGIVE every time!
- o 2nd – Being Forgiven... vs. 15
 - Required...
 - If you do not forgive men their trespasses - neither will your Father forgive your trespasses!

- If we do NOT forgive [aorist] the SINS of others – our Father will NOT forgive [future] us...
- Emphasizing the importance of FORGIVENESS – it is NOT an option...
- The ONLY way to get to Heaven – is to be FORGIVEN of our SINS...
- And if we are NOT willing to FORGIVE others – then we are NOT forgiven!
- How to Forgive...
 - **Luke 17:6** – “If you have faith as a mustard seed - you can say to this mulberry tree - Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea.”
 - The MULBERRY tree is famous in the Middle East for having incredibly deep roots...
 - The tree can grow very quickly - and because of its roots it is VERY difficult to kill...
 - Even cutting to the base is no guarantee - it must be pulled out by the roots!
 - The way to FORGIVE - is FAITH in Jesus - He can tear out the roots of unforgiveness...
 - He can send them away into the farthest sea - never to be seen again...
 - Because FORGIVENESS is not just for the one whom did us wrong - it is also for us...
 - It sets us free – so we do not dwell on the past - we get to move forward in Christ!
- 4TH – FASTING... vs. 16-18
 - o 1st – Reward of Men... vs. 16
 - Not Required...
 - Moreover - when you fast!
 - The FOURTH way we RELATE to God – is through FASTING...
 - FASTING [νηστεύω] – meaning to NOT eat FOOD [or water]
 - But this is NOT a command – it is a CHOICE [subjunctive]!
 - FASTING has become a way to DIET – rather than something SPIRITUAL...
 - Which is perhaps why it is one of the most misunderstood aspects of our walk!
 - FASTING does NOT have to be for a specific period of time [hour – day – week]
 - FASTING does NOT need to be just from food [social media – TV – gym]
 - FASTING is taking the time we would have used to do something PHYSICAL...
 - And instead use that time to do something SPIRITUAL – spend it with Jesus!
 - **Ephesians 5:16** – “Redeeming the time - because the days are evil.”
 - FASTING is denying what our FLESH wants – to strengthen our SPIRIT!
 - **Galatians 5:16** – “Walk in the Spirit - and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”
 - Hypocrites...
 - Do not be like the hypocrites - with a sad countenance.
 - For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting!
 - If we FAST – we are NOT [μή] to fast in such a way that everyone KNOWS...
 - Like the HYPOCRITES [ὑποκριτής] – the TWO faced!
 - It was common in Jesus day for men to actually ANNOUNCE their FASTS...
 - They would walk around with a SAD faces [because they were hungry]
 - And even PAINT their faces WHITE – so they would look PALE...
 - Because they wanted to ACT spiritual – show people they were HOLIER than others!
 - Earthly Reward...
 - Assuredly - I say to you - they have their reward!
 - [ἀμὴν] – Jesus assured His disciples – anyone who FASTS only to be seen by men...
 - Has their REWARD – God is NOT impressed by their SELF righteous act!
 - We may no longer PAINT our faces WHITE act more SPIRITUAL...
 - But we do live in a world that is OBSESSED with external appearances...
 - The world uses intermittent FASTING – not as a tool to help us grow SPIRITUALLY...
 - But they have twisted it to be used as something to BOAST about the PHYSICAL!
 - No matter how much we work out and diet the end is still the same – we DIE...

- That is not to say we should be careless – there is wisdom in being a steward of our body...
- But why waste an exorbitant time and effort on something that cannot last!
- **I Timothy 4:8** – “Bodily exercise profits a little - but godliness is profitable for all things...”

o 2nd – Reward of God... vs. 17-18

- But you - when you fast - anoint your head and wash your face.
- 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!
- When we are FASTING [participle] - we must [imperative] anoint and wash our face...
- So that no one KNOWS we are FASTING - we FAST in SECRET for ONLY God to see...
- Then our Father who sees in SECRET – will [future] reward us!
- We all LOVE to eat – but we do not like gaining WEIGHT...
- We understand that FASTING can be used to CONTROL our desire for FOOD...
- Therefore - we are willing to go HUNGRY – so that we can LOOK thin!
- Why not use the tool of FASTING for what it was meant for...
- Not a temporary victory over a desire for FOOD – but a permanent victory over SIN...
- Use our TIME not to feed our FLESH – but instead FEED our SPIRIT!
- **Romans 8:6** – “To be spiritually minded is LIFE and PEACE.”

• 5TH – TREASURES... vs. 19-24

o 1st – Earthly Treasures... vs. 19

- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth.
- Where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal!
- The FIFTH way we RELATE to God – is through our TREASURES...
- TREASURES [θησαυρός] – the things we consider to be the most VALUABLE...
- Do NOT [Μη] store up TREASURES [imperative] here on EARTH...
- Because FASHION [clothes] – just ends up getting holes [eaten by moths]
- POSSESSIONS [cars and cell phones] – just end up getting RUSTED [and disappear]
- And MONEY – can easily be STOLEN – either by THIEVES or the GOVERNMENT!
- Have you noticed that BRANDS and STYLES are ALWAYS changing [iPhone 25]
- What is in fashion TODAY – will be discounted and old news TOMORROW...
- Because it is just a MARKETING strategy to get us to waste our lives chasing after STUFF!
- Yet life is NOT about how much STUFF we own - or how much MONEY we have...
- Life is a GIFT - with only ONE purpose - it gives us the opportunity to make a CHOICE...
- Where will we go AFTER this life - where will we spend eternity...
- Sadly - many choose to chase after STUFF - rather than invest in the ETERNITY
- But NOTHING this world can offer is worth an eternity separated from God!
- **Mark 8:36-37** - “What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul. Is anything worth more than your soul!”

o 2nd – Heavenly Treasures... vs. 20

- Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.
- Where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal!
- We MUST [imperative] store our TREASURES in Heaven...
- Because they will be SAFE – there are no MOTHS – RUST – or THIEVES there...
- It is a comparison – SHORT term verse LONG term reward...
- Jesus gave told the story of TWO men – Lazarus and the Rich man...
- The Rich man had EVERYTHING this world had to offer – FASHION – POSSESSION – MONEY...
- Where Lazarus had NOTHING – he sat covered in boils eating the scraps the dogs rejected!
- **Luke 16:22** – “[Lazarus] died - and was carried by the angels to [Paradise]. The rich man also died and was [in hell].”

- If we were just given the choice – do we want to be RICH or POOR – the answer is EASY...
 - But once we extend our perspective out to eternity everything changes...
 - Being RICH in this life does not mean much – if we end up in HELL...
 - And being POOR in this life is not too high a price to pay – if it means we end up in HEAVEN...
 - Therefore we need to be WISE in where we CHOSE to store our TREASURES!
- o 3rd – The Heart... vs. 21
- For where your treasure is - there your heart will be also!
 - The REASON why we need to be careful where we put our TREASURES today [present]
 - Is because that is where we will find our HEARTS tomorrow [future]
 - If we had a P500 [dumb] phone – a cheap throw away – not a big deal if we lost it...
 - But if we had a P100,000 brand new iPhone 20 – death grip!
 - We tend to think we invest in the things that are important to us – follow our HEART...
 - The truth is our HEART follows our treasures – our CHOICE dictates what our HEART wants...
 - That is why we should never follow our HEART – it is deceptive – **Jeremiah 17:9**
 - Instead we need to be wise where we CHOOSE to invest our TIME and TREASURES...
 - If we are spending all of our time focused on this WORLD – we will LOVE this world...
 - In contrast if we are investing in the things of GOD – we will find we LOVE the Father!
- o 4th – Our Eye... vs. 22-23
- Good Eye... vs. 22
 - The lamp of the body is the eye.
 - If therefore your eye is good - your whole body will be full of light!
 - Our EYES are what lets [present] LIGHT into our BODY...
 - What we CHOSE to look at – is what we ALLOW to come into our HEART...
 - If our EYES are looking at what is GOOD [ἀπλοῦς] – 2x in NT – NOT compromised [braided]
 - Then our WHOLE body will be [future] FILLED with LIGHT!
 - Bad Eye... vs. 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!
 - If our EYES are looking at what is EVIL [πονηρός]
 - Then our WHOLE body will be [future] FILLED with DARKNESS...
 - And if what is meant to bring in LIGHT – instead brings in DARKNESS...
 - Then how [much] DARKNESS do we think will be in us!
 - I had no idea there was a device that could scramble an egg in the shell – saw it on YouTube...
 - Suddenly I had this desire to click on the link and buy one!
 - God did NOT give us EYES so that we could WATCH advertisements – that DO affect us...
 - ADS for the THINGS that make us think we NEED them to make us happy...
 - We need to be VERY careful what we WATCH – allow into our HEARTS...
 - We want to make sure we keep our EYES fixed on the things that are GOOD...
 - Spending time READING the Word of God – LOOKING at things that draw us closer to Jesus!
 - **Philippians 4:8** – “Fix your [eyes] on what is true - and honorable - and right - and pure - and lovely - and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”
- o 5th – One Master... vs. 24
- The Choice...
 - 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!
 - NO one has the POWER [δύναμις] to serve TWO masters [κύριος]
 - For we will end up [future] HATING one – and LOVING [ἀγαπάω] the other...
 - Or we will end up [future] CLINGING to one – and think BAD [καταφρονέω] of the other!

- If you have ever worked TWO jobs you can relate...
- Both BOSSES demand 100% of your time and focus [treasures]
- Eventually – you are forced to CHOSE – which one to you want to serve!
- God or Money...
 - You cannot serve God and mammon!
 - In the same way we do not have the POWER [δύναμις] to serve God and MAMMON...
 - MAMMON [μαμωνᾶς] – 4x in NT – materialism – wealth – money!
 - Ultimately the only reason someone rejects Jesus Christ...
 - Is because there is something else that they LOVE more than God in their life!
 - We all have to CHOSE – we cannot serve TWO masters...
 - Beware a divided heart - desiring to follow Jesus - but flirting with the world...
 - Trying to love this world and the Lord – will never last long...
 - We will be forced to make a CHOICE – who do we choose to live for – who do we serve...
 - If we live for this world – then we are not going to follow Jesus!
 - James 4:4 – “Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”