

Matthew 6:1-13

- **REVIEW...**

- o The Sermon of the King...
 - The LONGEST public teaching recorded in the New Testament - **Matthew 5-7**
 - Explaining to those who want to LEARN - how to be CITIZENS of the KINGDOM of God!
- o Keeping the Law...
 - Beginning with the Beatitudes – Jesus established we are POOR in Spirit...
 - And in order to be GOOD – we have to keep every JOT and TITTLE of the LAW...
 - We must be MORE righteous than even the SCRIBES and PHARISEES [mic drop]
- o Redefining the Law...
 - Jesus went on to examine FIVE [out of 613] - LAWS of Moses...
 - The LAW said do NOT murder – Jesus said to HATE without a cause it MURDER...
 - The LAW said to NOT commit adultery – Jesus said if we LOOK and LUST we are guilty...
 - The LAW said to KEEP our promises – Jesus said let our Yes be Yes – and No be No...
 - The LAW said an EYE for an EYE – Jesus said to turn the other CHEEK – go the extra MILE...
 - The LAW said to LOVE our neighbor – Jesus said to LOVE our enemy...
 - With just FIVE laws Jesus proved beyond any doubt – we are NOT good...
 - Because to be GOOD – we need to be PERFECT – as our Father in Heaven is PERFECT...
 - And knowing that is what allows us to be a Citizen of the Kingdom – because it drives us to Jesus!

- **1 – GIVING... vs. 1-4**

- o 1st – Relationship with God...
 - Having established how to become a Citizen of the Kingdom [we are NOT good]
 - Jesus is going to move on and define how to LIVE as a CITIZEN...
 - FIRST – He will tell us how we are to RELATE to God...
 - He will do so by addressing SIX areas: Giving – Prayer – Forgiving - Fasting – Treasures – Worry!
- o 2nd – Heart Check... vs. 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!
 - Take heed [προσέχω] – we might say PAY attention [imperative]
 - Because Jesus is going to give a CONTRAST – a way to CHECK our heart...
 - When we are do CHARITY – from [ἐλεος] MERCY: giving to poor - helping those in need...
 - Do NOT [μὴ] give so that we can be SEEN my men...
 - Because if we do – then we will NEVER [οὐ] get a reward from our Father in Heaven!
 - While it is a GOOD thing to have MERCY [ἐλεος] on those who are less fortunate...
 - We must make sure we GIVE with the right MOTIVE...
 - Because WHY we do something reveals WHO we want to SERVE...
 - If we focused on pleasing MEN – then we are NOT living our lives to please GOD!
 - **Galatians 1:10** – “If I still please men – I [am] not be a bondservant of Christ.”
- o 3rd – Reward of Men... vs. 2
 - The Tithe...
 - Therefore - when you do a charitable deed!
 - When you give [subjunctive] – this is NOT a command...
 - We often hear about TITHES in church – from Hebrew word for a tenth [עֶשֶׂר]
 - According to the LAW there were THREE different TITHES...
 - The Levitical tithe - to provide for those who served the Lord - **Numbers 18:21-24**
 - The Harvest tithe – to be given to the Lord - **Deuteronomy 14:22-26**

- The Poor tithe – which was only once every THREE years - **Deuteronomy 14:28-29**
 - I am always amused by those who teach giving 10% to the church [it should be 23%]
 - People take this LAW from the OT and teach it like it belongs in the NT...
 - But the LAW is NOT a buffet - we cannot pick and choose what we like!
 - Not Required...
 - People GIVE out of a sense of obligation - but do NOT want to...
 - It may even be taught that if we do not GIVE - God will NOT bless us...
 - As if we do not GIVE to the church - we are stealing from God - **Malachi 3:8**
 - But the NT says whatever we GIVE - we are to do it with a HAPPY heart...
 - If we GIVE out of obligation - it counts for nothing - God does NOT want it!
 - **II Corinthians 9:7** – “Let each one give as he purposes in his heart - not grudgingly or of necessity. For God loves a cheerful giver.”
 - Hypocrites...
 - Do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets...
 - That they may have glory from men!
 - If we GIVE – we are NOT [μὴ] to sound a TRUMPET [make a lot of noise]
 - Like the HYPOCRITES [ὑποκριτής] – to be TWO faced!
 - It was common in Jesus day for men to actually ANNOUNCE their GIFTS...
 - They would blow TRUMPETS in the church [συναγωγή] and on the streets...
 - They wanted EVERYONE to SEE how generous they were – GLORY of men [subjunctive]
 - It reminds me of politicians who GIVE [tax money] – with their name plastered on the GIFT...
 - Or GIFTS to a church - with the name of the GIVER posted for all to see!
 - Earthly Reward...
 - AMEN - I say to you - they have their reward!
 - [ἀμήν] – Jesus assured His disciples – anyone who GIVES only to be seen by men...
 - Has their REWARD – God is NOT impressed by their SELFISH motivation!
 - Jesus was in the Temple - watching as people gave their money - **Mark 12:42-44**
 - There were many there who were RICH - who put in a LOT of money [with trumpets]
 - But there was a poor widow who only put in TWO mites [not even a peso]
 - Jesus called the disciples and told them - she gave MORE than all the rich put together...
 - The rich gave out of their ABUNDANCE – but she gave ALL she had!
 - Giving to God is not about MONEY - God does NOT need anything...
 - Giving is not about the QUANTITY - giving a lot means NOTHING if it costs us nothing...
 - Giving is about SACRIFICE - giving from the heart - showing our LOVE for God!
- o 4th – Reward of God... vs. 3-4
- In Secret... vs. 3-4
 - When we do a charitable deed do not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing.
 - That our charitable deed may be in secret!
 - When we GIVE – we must NOT [imperative] let our left hand know what our right is doing...
 - In other words – we need to give in SECRET for ONLY God to see!
 - King Jehoash took a wooden box – with a hole cut into the top – **II Kings 12:9**
 - He set it on the side as people came into the house of the Lord...
 - The purpose of the box – let the people give anonymously to the Lord!
 - When a church passes an offering plate people tend to make a SHOW of their gift...
 - But they are NOT giving to God - they are giving for the recognition of MEN...
 - Jesus says - they have their reward - the temporary praises of others...
 - That is why we have a BOX – and do NOT pass an offering plate - give anonymously!

- Heavenly Reward...
 - Your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly!
 - Those who GIVE in secret – will be REWARDED [future] openly!
 - That does NOT mean that God will make us RICH...
 - God is not an ATM - put in our DEPOSIT – and out comes more MONEY!
 - We do NOT give – so that we can RECEIVE – we give in SECRET to show our HEART...
 - We are NOT looking for an EARTHLY reward...
 - We want our FATHER in heaven to SEE that we want to please Him...
 - And when we do – He will [future] reward us OPENLY – when we get to Heaven!
- 2 – PRAYER... vs. 5-13
 - o 1st – Reward of Men... vs. 5
 - Not Required...
 - When you pray!
 - PRAY [προσεύχομαι] – to give our wish or request to God...
 - But this is NOT a command – it is a CHOICE [subjunctive]!
 - Too often PRAYER is treated as a ritual - part of what God expects a Christian to do...
 - As if somehow a few recited words to God - once or twice a day - is enough...
 - But rarely do people take the time in prayer to LISTEN – have a CONVERSATION!
 - Prayer is how we COMMUNICATE with our Father in heaven...
 - How we have a RELATIONSHIP with God - if we NEVER take time to talk to Him...
 - Telling Him about our day - getting to KNOW the God who created us...
 - Taking the time to listening to His WILL and PLAN for our lives!
 - Hypocrites...
 - 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!
 - If we PRAY – we are NOT [μὴ] to pray in the open for everyone to SEE...
 - Like the HYPOCRITES [ὑποκριτής] – to be TWO faced!
 - It was common in Jesus day for men to make PUBLIC prayers...
 - They would STAND up to pray in church [συναγωγή] – and on the streets...
 - They LOVED [φιλέω] to have everyone SEE how spiritual they were!
 - There is nothing wrong with having a GROUP conversation with God...
 - But we need to watch the motive of our heart - do not pray to IMPRESS others...
 - People who use BIG words - tremble their voice - to sound more spiritual...
 - God is NOT impressed - at best they are acting like a fool and embarrassing themselves...
 - Prayer should be NATURAL – a simple conversation with God - no matter who is there!
 - Earthly Reward...
 - AMEN - I say to you - they have their reward!
 - [ἀμήν] – Jesus assured His disciples – anyone who PRAYS only to be seen by men...
 - Has their REWARD – God is NOT impressed by their SELF righteous act!
 - Many of the LEADERS in Israel believed Jesus was the Messiah – **John 12:43**
 - But they would not CONFESS him – because they LOVED [ἀγαπάω] the praises of Men!
 - The problem with LOVING the praises of MEN – is it means we put them ahead of God...
 - And we will NOT stand up for Jesus – because we LOVE something else more than Him!
 - o 2nd – Reward of God ... vs. 6
 - In Secret...
 - 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!
 - If [subjunctive] we PRAY – we must [imperative] go into our room and shut the door...

- In other words – we need to PRAY in SECRET to our Father who we CANNOT see!
- We are called to PRAY continually – **I Thessalonians 5:17**
- We obviously cannot literally lock ourselves up in a room ALL day long...
- What this means is we are to PRAY in a way that is NOT obvious [seen by men]
- Quietly talking to our FATHER in heaven as we go about our day!
- Heavenly Reward...
 - Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly!
 - Those who PRAY in secret – will be REWARDED [future] openly!
 - The REWARD for PRAYER – is a RELATIONSHIP with our God...
 - We get to have instant access to the CREATION of Heaven and Earth!
 - **Hebrews 4:16** – “Come boldly to the throne of grace... and find grace to help in time of need.”
- o 3rd – Why Pray... vs. 7-8
 - No Repetition... vs. 7
 - When you pray - do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do.
 - For they think that they will be heard for their many words!
 - When we are PRAYING [participle] – we are NOT [μή] to use REPETITION...
 - Unbelievers [ἔθνος] use repetition – thinking God will listen if they use LOTS of words!
 - It is NOT wrong to REPEAT prayer - Jesus asked 3x to take the cross – **Matthew 26:44**
 - Or asking for the same thing more than once – Parable of the persistent widow - **Luke 18:1-8**
 - But the idea of SCRIPTED prayers is just silly - that is a SPEECH - not a PRAYER!
 - If someone came up to us the same time every day and said the same thing...
 - Never any variation - never waiting around for a reply – there would be NO relationship...
 - In the same way - when we simply repeat ourselves out of habit - there is no communication...
 - We must be careful not to make prayer a RITUAL - rather than a CONVERSATION!
 - God Knows... vs. 8
 - Therefore do not be like them.
 - For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him!
 - Do NOT [μή] be like UNBELIEVERS – thinking we need to let God know what we NEED...
 - Because our Father SEES [perfect] what we NEED – before we even ASK!
 - STOP right there – this is a PROFOUND statement...
 - The world think the REASON for PRAYER – is to let God know what we NEED...
 - They think that because they do NOT know God – so He does NOT answer them...
 - And they use REPETITION – many words – to try and get His attention!
 - But our Father already SEES [εἶδω] what we need...
 - God is ETERNAL – He is outside of TIME – He saw our NEED before – **Genesis 1:1**
 - So if we do NOT pray to give God information [what we need] – WHY do we pray!
- o 4th – How to Prayer... vs. 9-13
 - Example... vs. 9
 - In this manner – therefore pray!
 - Since we are NOT to pray REPETITIVELY – because God knows what we NEED...
 - Jesus gives the PATTERN [manner] we should use in PRAYER [imperative]!
 - Ironically – this PRAYER has been abused over the years as a REPETITIVE prayer...
 - But it is meant be an example of HOW to PRAY – we call it the LORDS prayer...
 - Though it would be better called the MODEL prayer...
 - The LORDS prayer can be found in the book of John – **John 17**
 - Who to pray to... vs. 9
 - Our Father in heaven - Hallowed be Your name!

- FIRST - Jesus opens the MODEL prayer by addressing to our Father...
- Recognizing His name is HOLY [ἁγίαζω] – the NAME of the LORD [יהוה]
- If we put in an incorrect email address – cell number – it does not end up where we want...
- Yet a lot of people try praying to the WRONG address [Saints - Mary]
- There is only ONE mediator – and that is Jesus – **I Timothy 2:5**
- Through Him we direct our prayer toward our Father in Heaven...
- And we PRAY in the Holy Spirit – **I Corinthians 14:15**
- We pray to the Father – through the Son - in the Spirit - because they are one!
- What to pray for... vs. 10
 - Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!
 - SECOND – Jesus tell us we must PRAY [imperative] for God to bring His Kingdom...
 - This is not talking about the RETURN of Jesus – this is about our hearts – **Luke 17:21**
 - We are PRAYING [imperative] for the WILL of God to be done in our lives [on earth]!
 - When we PRAY - our perspective changes - we see our circumstances in a new light...
 - We no longer SEE our problems - instead we SEE God who is GREATER than any problem...
 - PRAYER is not about changing the mind of God – telling Him what we NEED...
 - PRAYER is about God changing our mind - getting us to see His Will!
 - **Philippians 4:6** - “Do not worry about anything. Instead - pray about everything...”
- What we need... vs. 11-12
 - Give us this day our daily bread - and forgive us our debts!
 - THIRD – Jesus tell us there are two NEEDS we PRAY for God to give [imperative] to us ...
 - FIRST – our DAILY [2x in NT] bread – what we NEED to physically LIVE...
 - SECOND – our DEBTS [sins] forgiven – what we NEED to spiritually LIVE!
 - We might have a LONG list of what we THINK we NEED – but the list is quite SHORT...
 - We need FOOD to live - and most important - we NEED to be forgiven of our SINS...
 - Anything more than that is not a NEED – it is just our WANTS!
- What we must do... vs. 12
 - As we forgive our debtors!
 - FOURTH - Our responsibility in PRAYER – is to always [present] FORGIVE [indicative]
 - FORGIVE [ἀφίημι] – to cast something far away from us...
 - To be FORGIVEN – we must FORGIVE those who are in DEBT [sin] to us!
 - **Luke 17:4** – “Even if [someone] wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness - forgive [them].”
 - When we are hurt by someone - and refuse to forgive – we are DISOBEYING God...
 - Now not only do we have a DAMAGED relationship with the person who sinned...
 - But we also have a DAMAGED relationship with the Lord...
 - With unforgiveness in our hearts - God will NOT hear our prayers - **Mark 11:25**
- What God does... vs. 13
 - Do not lead us into trials - but deliver us from the evil!
 - FIFTH - We can ask God to please NOT [μή] lead [subjunctive] us into TRIALS...
 - TRIALS [πειρασμός] can alternately be translated as TEMPTATION...
 - How can we tell the difference between a TRIAL or a TEMPTATION...
 - A TEMPTATION does NOT come from God - **James 1:13**
 - A TRIAL is FROM God – something He uses to TEST us – **James 1:2-3**
 - But even if God does allow a TRIAL – we know He can RESCUE us from EVIL [the trial]!
 - Silver is refined by putting it into the heat of an intense fire...
 - The fire draws out the impurities of the silver so they can be removed...
 - The smith knows the silver is pure when he can see his reflection!

- Jesus put us in TRIALS to TEST our FAITH - draw out the impurities from our life [sin]
- He knows when we are done – because He sees His reflection in our lives...
- We want God to use us – we want to draw closer to the Lord...
- But often we will find before God a work THROUGH us – He first does one IN us...
- Do not be surprised if we ask God to use us- only to find we are in a trial...
- God uses it to PREPARE us – mold us – shape us – into Godly men and women!
- **I Peter 4:12** – “Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you...”
- How to Close... vs. 13
 - For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen!
 - FINALLY - we close our prayer with a recognition of WHO God is...
 - He is [present] the one who is owns EVERYTHING – the KINGDOM...
 - He has [present] all the POWER [δύναμις] – He is SOVEREIGN – **Ephesians 1:11**
 - He is always [present] the one who deserves all the GLORY [δόξα]
 - Not just TODAY – but ALWAYS [αἰών]!
 - Did you ever wonder why we put our hands together in PRAYER...
 - With hands outstretched – fingers interlocked – we are defenseless...
 - We are coming to God in SURRENDER – recognizing His AUTHORITY...
 - Saying to Him – whatever He wants to do – AMEN [ἀμήν]!