

Notes from Matthew

Everyman's Bible Commentary

Arthur Robertson

Robertson, Arthur. *Matthew*. Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983.

"Task relates: "It became known as the "ecclesiastical" Gospel, because it provided the Church with an indispensable tool in its threefold tasks of defending its beliefs against attacks from Jewish opponents, of instructing converts from paganism in the ethical implications of their newly accepted religion, and of helping its own members to live a disciplined life of fellowship based on the record of the deeds and words of their Lord and Master which they heard read week by week in the orderly and systematic form provided by this evangelist."¹

"Proper prayer is addressed in Matthew 6:5-15 (cf. Luke 11:2-4). The Jews characteristically prayed at three times each day (Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10). The King is not condemning all public prayer, only ostentatious prayer." The hypocrite is an actor whose prayers is a performance for the applause of the crowd rather than a sincere conversation with God."²

"A true disciple's prayer should be enlightened by an understanding of the character of the King."³

"Matthew 6:9-15 presents a model prayer. It is not the Lord's Prayer in the sense that He needed to pray this prayer; as the sinless One, He did not need to request forgiveness (cf. v. 12). Disciples are told to pray "in this manner" or "in this way," not in exactly those words (v. 9a)."⁴

"Here the King gives a model by sharing six prayer principles that pertain to the past, present, and future of His disciples."⁵

"These principles are petitions related to the Father: (1) that men reverence Him (i.e., His Name); (2) that His kingdom (i.e., His Lordship) be established on earth; and 3) that His will be as perfectly followed on earth as it is in heaven. Then He speaks of three principles related as petitions for human needs: (1) physical sustenance, (2) spiritual forgiveness, and (3) moral leadership."⁶

"Listeners recognized that God was the Father of Israel (Isa. 63:16; 64:8) and of individual believers (Pss. 27:10; 68:5; 89:26, 28), but Jesus stressed that God is the Father of those who are

¹ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 5.

² Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 41.

³ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 41.

⁴ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 41.

⁵ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 41.

⁶ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 41-42.

forgiven. Only when a disciple has correctly understood how he has been forgiven and is able to forgive others can he have the correct motive for prayer (v. 12; cf. Matt. 18:21-35).”⁷

Persistent Prayer Produces Proper Motives (7:7-12)

“The present tense is used with each of the verbs and can be translated, "Continue to ask, continue to seek, and continue to knock.”⁸

“Because of gratitude for the Father's continuing care, the disciple should love his neighbor as much as he loves himself. An attitude of dependence on God evidenced in persistent prayer will also be evidenced in an attitude of love toward others equal to the love that one has for himself. That love fulfills the law and the prophets and is the prerequisite motivation for all effective prayer (cf. 1 John 3:22). Only as the believer is energized by the Holy Spirit can he experience that love motive (cf. Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:22-25).”⁹

⁷ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 41-42.

⁸ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 44.

⁹ Arthur Robertson, *Matthew*, Everyman's Bible Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983), 44-45.