

To Be a Disciple

Unit 1101: The Disciple' and His / Her Worship and Piety

Matthew 6:1-18

CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (October 6, 2024)

1. Jesus elevates the Law to include *intentions of the heart*.
2. Perfect love for God - and perfect love for the neighbor - full the Law.
3. Love (giving what people need) must not be confused with Sentimentality (giving what people want).
4. Jesus has fulfilled the Law for us with His imputed perfect obedience to the Law.
5. Be sensitive to the difference between the Spirit of the Law ... and Letter of the Law.

I. THE NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE DISCIPLE IN WORSHIP

A. ALMSGIVING (Matthew 6:1-4)

1. ALMS: Something (such as money or food) given freely to relieve the poor and / or the distressed
2. The REWARD = Recognition by God ... not other people on earth
3. *your Father* ... Phrase occurs **9 times** in Matthew 6:1-18. (Father-Child)
4. *trumpet* ... Used to give a signal and draw attention
5. See **Joshua 6:1-5**
6. HYPOCRITE: ὑποκριτής - Originated in Greek theater (masked actor)

B. PRAYER (Matthew 6:5-15)

1. PUBLIC PRAYER was part of the ancient synagogue worship service.
2. But NOT to gain a *reward of recognition* from other people.
3. Repetitious phrases ("many words") are an attempt to manipulate God.
4. Prayer is an act of dependence upon God - not information giving.
4. Lord's Prayer is the MODEL PRAYER for the disciple.
5. Lord's Prayer is ESCHATOLOGICAL (points to the Last Thing)
 - a. Petitions 1-3 ask that God be honored - and His will be fully recognized
 - b. Petitions 4-7 ask that God meet the daily needs of His disciples until Jesus comes again at the Last Day.
6. *hallowed be your name* - Pray that God's Name be kept holy and is vindicated at the Last Day (See Ezekiel 36:22-23)
7. *Your kingdom come* - God setting up His throne in human hearts ... today!

8. *our daily bread* - Everything needed for support in body and life (See **Exodus 16:2-2, 13-21**)
9. *forgive us our debts* - A common Jewish name for SINS
10. *lead us not into temptation* (See **James 1:13-14**)
11. *deliver us from evil* - Greek says *from the Evil One (Satan)*
12. *if you forgive others their trespasses* - extra reinforcement of the 5th Petition (See **Luke 23:33-34**)

C. FASTING (Matthew 6:16-18)

1. Voluntary abstaining from food in observance of religious need or event - seeking enlightenment and deeper understanding.
2. Point: Fasting has to do with God - not the person doing the fasting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the three traditional areas of Jewish piety [displayed righteousness] that were practiced by the disciples? Give a brief summary of each one.
2. What phrase occurs nine times in Matthews 6:1-18? What does the repeated use of this phrase suggest about a disciple's worship and piety?
3. What is the difference between the "reward" God gives the disciple - and the "reward" that the hypocrite seeks through his / her religious practices?
4. What is the central thought of the Lord's Prayer?
5. What are the three parts of the Lord's Prayer - and what do they deal with?
6. Which petition of the Lord's Prayer does Jesus select for additional comment? Why?
7. What do we learn from this section about our own worship life as disciples of Jesus?
8. How do you think we should practice our daily piety as disciples of Jesus? What should be INCLUDED?