

Sermon on the Mount

Authentic Spiritual Service

Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction

Matthew Chapter 5 records the first three themes of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.

- The first emphasizes the character of authentic disciples in the teaching of the beatitudes.
- The second highlights the influence of authentic disciples in the teaching about salt and light.
- The third theme focuses on the conduct of authentic disciples in life situations.

Jesus addresses six examples by addressing murder, adultery, divorce, keeping your word, retaliation, and showing love for enemies.

1. Matthew Chapter 6 contains the fourth important theme, that focuses on building a relationship with God that _____ our service.
2. We serve God because we want to bring _____ to Him.
3. The service of an authentic servant will shine even in a quiet place where no one else but _____ can see it.
4. Matthew Chapter 6 emphasize our sensitivity to serving God and can be divided into three specific parts:
 - almsgiving (6:2-4),
 - _____ (6:5-15) and
 - fasting (6:16-18)
5. Jesus gives us two principles to consider:
 - 1) Do not seek to display your charitable deeds before men and
 - 2) Seek only the _____ of God.
6. Jesus describes false spiritual service, with a reoccurring sentence, "Verily I say unto you, they have their _____."

7. Jesus emphasizes that your reward will correspond to your _____.
8. God _____ people for the service they do to honor Him, regardless of whether anyone sees them do it or not.

I. Give from the Heart

9. Almsgiving is giving straight from the _____.
10. We can define almsgiving as showing ' _____ or having pity on someone.
11. Almsgiving is a feeling of _____ and the giving of certain gifts or blessings to someone in need.
12. Almsgiving is an act of _____ something to those in need out of a feeling of compassion or mercy.
13. Throughout the Old Testament, the people were forbidden to turn a blind eye to those among them who were materially _____.
14. Almsgiving was considered to be _____.
15. Judaism turned almsgiving into a self-serving outward form of righteousness that they used to distinguish themselves as pious and _____ in the sight of God.
16. The _____ of the Jews came to be based on their own actions rather than upon the mercy of God.
17. _____ and almsgiving had come to be regarded as synonymous terms.
18. By the time of Christ, Judaism had _____ almsgiving to the point of being an act of devout piety.
19. Almsgiving had become an _____ complete with professional alms-receivers who earned a living off the sympathy of others.

20. In first-century Judaism, both a 'poor fund' and a 'pauper's dish' appear to have been corporately collected offerings used to provide money for the _____.
21. 'Almsgiving' was also a significant trait of the early _____.
22. Almsgiving was something Jesus _____ of His followers.
23. The Early Church saw almsgiving as a response to their _____ for God and not as an act they hoped would win God's love for themselves.
24. When Jesus said, "When you do a charitable deed, do not let your _____ hand know what your right hand is doing,"

II. Pray from the Heart

25. In Matthew 6:9 Jesus' teaches on _____.
26. Jesus does not condemn public prayer or Christians praying in _____.
27. Jesus is not saying that prayer must be _____.
28. Jesus is not ruling out the use of _____ in prayer.
29. _____ can infect anyone.
30. We know our heavenly Father always _____ us when we pray, and we know it is not necessary to impress Him with our volume or length of prayer.

III. Fasting that involves the Heart

31. The third illustration Jesus uses to make his point about practicing authentic spiritual service concerns _____.
32. Jesus told his disciples that they were to "anoint their head and _____ their face when they fast."

33. They weren't to call _____ to their prayer life.

34. The point of fasting is to focus your time and energy on _____.

Conclusion

35. In Matthew Chapter 5, Jesus instructs us to invest ourselves in _____ good deeds.

36. In Chapter 6, he cautions us not to make a _____ of them.

Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting help keep us focused on what pleases God instead of what pleases us. They challenge us to carefully examine our motives so we can consistently and consciously submit our lives to God.

As followers of Christ, we live our lives under the watchful eye of God as well as before people. Be genuine. Be authentic. Be real in practicing your devotion to God and let your rewards come from Him.

ANSWERS:

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|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Motivates | 19. Needy |
| 2. Honor | 20. Church |
| 3. God | 21. Expected |
| 4. Prayer | 22. Love |
| 5. Favor | 23. Left |
| 6. Reward | 24. Prayer |
| 7. Motivation | 25. Groups |
| 8. Rewards | 26. Silent |
| 9. Heart | 27. Repetition |
| 10. Mercy | 28. Hypocrisy |
| 11. Compassion | 29. Hears |
| 12. Doing | 30. Fasting |
| 13. Poor | 31. Wash |
| 14. Righteous | 32. Attention |
| 15. Holy | 33. Prayer |
| 16. Salvation | 34. Doing |
| 17. Righteousness | 35. Show |
| 18. Elevated | |