

Matthew 6:1-34

The Priorities of the Heart

We are still in the 2nd section of The Sermon on the Mount – Great sermon

A) Starts with Beatitudes – 1st section

B) The 2nd section begins in V.17 – and V.20 is really the Key verse of this 2nd section

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

C) Jesus is going to describe that the real problem with the righteousness of the Scribes / Pharisees

1) It is ALL OUTWARD!!!

D) JESUS precedes to explain how – it is not just the outward actions that matter – **it is the heart**

1) The outward actions can appear fine – but the Lord sees the heart

E) The heart reveals where we are really at

1) The heart reveals if attitudes are right and our motives are pure

MOTIVE IS EVERYTHING

Jesus continues to illustrate that in chapter 6 by dealing with 3 key practices in Jewish life

RD V.1-18

The first verse sets forth the basic principle that our Lord is driving home, **“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.**

A) Don't do your religious deeds to be seen by men

B) And then he illustrates it in three ways. **When you GIVE, when you PRAY and when you FAST**

C) Three common and regular disciplines of Judaism and later of followers of Christ.

D) Note: **Jesus doesn't say: If you do these things – but when –**

1) the idea being this is normal Christian behavior. Normal Christian Disciplines – **Giving/Praying / Fasting**

E) When you do these things – don't do them to be seen by MEN – that is not the point – purpose

1) The Hypocrite does their deeds to be seen by men

Now -When Jesus repeats himself it is important for us to pay attention to the Repetition

A) Hypocrites – 3X – Contrast – don't be like them
Play actors – Mask –

B) They pretend to be one way when in reality they are another way.

1) Indictment against religious leaders – This is still in reference to the Scribes and Pharisees

C) Matthew Loves to call them out – Uses the term Hypocrites more than anywhere else in the Bible

D) Point here: God always sees behind the MASK

This is what the Hypocrite does: When they give they do it to be seen by men – Big deal about it

A) And when they pray – they pray to be heard by men

B) Pray out loud in the synagogue – They pray on the street corners

C) Jesus is not saying: Wrong to pray in Church – saying – CHECK YOUR MOTIVATION

D) TALKING TO GOD – Not men

1) The Hypocrite – the person who is more concerned with putting on an outward show –

E) He is Praying to be heard by Men

And when they Fast- Everyone is going to know it

A) They roll in – unshaven – BED HEAD – sad countenance – Fasting – Self Sacrifice

B) Their motivation is to be seen by men and thought well of by men!

1) Fear of men is a snare -

C) Hypocrites – 3X's - FATHER 10X

Father radical concept – Jews did not think of God as Father – personally – only nationally

A) This is about Relationship- THIS IS ABOUT INTIMACY

B) Motivation is to get closer to the Father – **The true follower does them out of love for God**

1) It is relational – Heart for God –

C) But Jesus repeats this phrase - 3X **Father who sees in secret will reward you openly** 3X –

D) The Contrast: When the Motive is to be seen by men – THAT IS THEIR REWARD –

1) APPLAUSE AND ADULATION OF MEN

E) But when the Heart is right – Motive is right before God –

1) There is a reward for the right heart

SO Jesus says: When you Give – don't make a big deal about it – Don't let right hand doing

A) When you Pray – go into your Room – Secret place

B) When you fast – LOOK NORMAL Wash your face – Shave – anoint

C) IN each case the Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Now smack dab in the middle of all this – Jesus gives a lesson about Prayer – IN this manner Pray

A) We touched on this the last two Sundays
Go online – listen

B) 4 important aspects of prayer:

1) **Relational** – Our Father – Daddy

2) **Worshipful** – Hallowed be Your name

C) None like you- NO RIVAL – NO EQUAL

1) Worship and Revered

D) Our world likes to blaspheme the Name of the Lord

Ever thought about how Ironic that is:

A) Satan inspired – Use the name of the Lord as a cuss word

B) Why is it that you will never hear someone when they hit thumb with a hammer – Hare Krishna

1) Oh Buddha - Never hear – I swear to Buddha

C) There is no – **OMB – abbreviation** –

D) God's name is to be exalted and revered -

1) True pray is worshipful - His name is to be worshipped – Not taken for granted

It is Purposeful: - Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven -

A) Your agenda – over my agenda

B) Finally the prayer is **Provisional**

A) Give us this day – present needs

Forgive us..... Past needs

Lead us..... Future needs

¹⁴ **“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

Here is what Jesus wants us to understand: Forgiveness is not an OPTION

A) Forgiveness is required for those who have been forgiven.

B) We are not given the luxury of holding on to grudges and bitterness towards other people.

C) We need to be those who are prone to forgive those who have wronged us

1) Because we understand how much we have been forgiven by God.

C) To not do so is another form of Hypocrisy –

1) Talk all we want about God's grace and kindness and forgiveness – but if we don't show it – what is the point?

Choosing to forgive is good for our Spiritual well being for a number of reasons

A) #1 It protects us from roots of bitterness that cause harm to our lives spiritually, emotionally, even physically

Dale Carnegie Bear Story: Yellowstone: Yrs ago in Yellowstone – clearing area dump trash – feed bears – people could watch from a distance and take pictures

On one occasion a huge grizzly came to feast

A) The American grizzly is probably the most ferocious animal on the N. American continent

B)The only animal that can maybe stand off the American Grizzly is the Kodiak bear

1)Or a Wild Bison that was really infuriated.

C)So Most animals let the Grizzly have it's way and when this Grizzly shows up for the buffet – at Yellowstone – the rest scatter.

So the bear is feasting and people are snapping pictures – but then a skunk comes walking up

A)He starts digging in taking the Grizzlies – Food The Grizzly does nothing – shares the space Why?

B)The answer – Carnegie writes – The High cost of getting even –

1)The bear did not want to pay the price – Smart bear!!!!

C)Smarter than a lot of people who get hung up in roots of bitterness – Defile themselves and others

1)RESULT: There is a stench that marks their lives

Like the Father who showed up at the Doctors office with his 14 year old son “Doctor, I’ve come to get some more pills for my wife’s colitis.”

The son replied - “Who is she colliding with now?”

OUCH –

It has been said - “It’s not what you eat, it’s whats eating you.” That’s the real issue

A)Walking in forgiveness protects us from that

B)#2 Walking in forgiveness makes us more like Jesus

1)Father forgive them..... What they do

C)#3 Walking in forgiveness keeps us in right fellowship with God our Father

1)Point of v. 15 **But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

What does he mean by this? What it doesn’t mean

A) Matthew 6:15 does not teach that our eternal destiny is based on our forgiving other people;

B)The Bible is clear that God pardons sin by His grace based on Christ’s work on the cross alone,

1)**Not on man’s actions.**

C)Our right standing before Him is established on one thing only—the finished work of Christ

D)This is what we would call Ultimate Forgiveness – it is about Salvation.

Then there is daily forgiveness – We sin each day
1 John 1:9 Confess

A)Great illustration of this – John 13 – Jesus washing feet – Peter resists – Bath – Not needed –

B)Jesus said: **He who has bathed – merely needs his feet washed –**

1)Their feet was in touch with the World – the dirt and the grime

C)If you drove today on the FWY or in traffic you need forgiveness right ?

SO Ultimate forgiveness deals with our salvation – positional forgiveness

A)the other is a practical one. Daily

B)Daily forgiveness has to do with experiencing the Joy of it in our daily lives

C)One has to do with Salvation – the other has to do with Fellowship

1)Unforgiveness affects our fellowship with God – our relationship with God.

D)We cannot possibly walk in true fellowship with God and refuse to forgive others.

E)Forgiveness is about your heart

1)Reconciliation is another matter entirely – will involve repentance by those who were in the wrong

So we could sum up this whole 2nd session with this statement: **“The Hypocrite is concerned about how he appears before men – but the true follower of Christ is more concerned with how he appears before God.”**

It is really a matter of the priorities of the Heart

A)Which is exactly what Jesus begins to deal with in the verses that follow

B)See 4 implied questions

#1 Where is your treasure?

#2 What is your perspective?

#3 Who is your master?

#4 What is accomplished by worry?

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

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!

24 “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. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Where is your treasure?

A)Earth? Here? this life? Problem with that is it is temporal – fleeting –

B)The car depreciates \$1000 the moment you drive it off the lot –

1)And Can’t take it with you – not driving it into the pearly gates –

C)Am I suggesting – Wrong to have a nice car – No unless it is your treasure

1)Wash and Wax every weekend – neglect your family - Park in 2 spaces – to avoid scratches

2)Years of saving - Denise new Car – 2nd month

Cars Rust – break down - Clothes not only go out of style but they wear out to.

A)Some Favorite shirts worn until the material shredded

B)Not only do our treasures here wear out – they can be stolen! –

1)iPad in the pizza box -

C)That is the problem with earthly treasures

THERE IS Another type of treasure:

A)They are Heavenly “Don’t store up treasures on earth..... treasure in heaven.”

B)Difference: treasures on earth vs treasures in Heaven?

C)Treasures on earth fade – treasures in heaven last – **LASTING VALUE!**

To "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" implies that we seek to live with a different worldview than our counterparts in the world.

A)We live with eternity in view.

B)We live with the knowledge that one-day we WILL stand before the Lord to give an account for our lives!

C)WE ARE all going to answer for what the Lord has ENTRUSTED TO US!

D)Can’t take it with us but we can Send it ahead.

E)Where are you investing?

Not suggesting that we shouldn’t plan ahead – have a retirement fund –

A)The bible commends wise stewardship

B)Where are you investing the MOST?

First implied question: Where is your treasure?

A)#2 What is your perspective - see the two go hand in hand.

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, (healthy) your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, (unhealthy) your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

If you realize – the things of this earth are temporal and fleeting – Good perspective –

A)You will be healthy and balanced

B)But if your perception is bad – focused on things here – greater importance on stuff – BAD

1)UNHEALTHY – Distorted

C)When your vision gets distorted – it affects the way that you live.

1)**PRIORITIES ARE ALL OUT OF WACK**

D)If you think this life is about you – your pleasure – your happiness – Distorted view

E)Marriage is to make me happy! – No make you more like Jesus –

1) Help you fulfill your mission

Third implied Question: Who is your master ?

24 “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. You cannot serve God and mammon.

A) Mammon is money or materialism

B) Listen you can serve many things but you can only have one master.

C) **We were meant to be mastered** – It is part of our relationship with God –

1) Willing servants – Service out of Love

Problem with most people is they go from one Master to another

A) Money is a great servant – cruel Master – never enough

B) Porn is a cruel master – Bondage

1) Drug addiction – Cruel master

2) Alcohol addiction – Cruel Master

3) Popularity is a cruel master – always chasing – trying to keep up

C) Self is a cruel Master – very demanding

D) Jesus is stating a very important fact – **You can really only have one Master –**

1) Try to have two – conflicts

A Christians who has the wrong treasures – wrong perspective – wrong Master

A) Result: No peace – frustration – always worried and freaking out

B) That is not how the Lord wants us to live –

C) **QUESTION #4 What is accomplished by worry?**

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? (Important to note that food and clothing were a big deal to these people- didn’t have closets full of clothes – or Fridges full of food) FOR MOST OF US – NOT OUR WORRY

WE worry about things – like will I ever be able to retire?

A) Will I be able to buy a house – or send my kids to college – take care of my aging parents

B) The point is we all have things we worry about .

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. (God takes care of the birds) Are you not of more value than they? (YES) God did not send his son to die on the cross for the birds – animal kingdom – LOST PEOPLE!!!! Birds–Maalox/ shrinks

Then Jesus asked this question: 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

A) Does worry benefit you at all? – Help you get ahead?

B) Worry is prayer in Reverse: Worry makes my problems get bigger – Pray and they get smaller.

1) Worry is grabbing a hold of tomorrow and dragging it into today

C) Worry doesn’t do any good!

1) But we all struggle with it right ?

D) Jesus is saying – look you are more valuable than the Birds and God takes care of them.

28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

All about Perspective –

31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek.

When you worry and get all worked up about earthly things – you are acting like a person who doesn’t know God

A) That is what the Gentiles DO

For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

B)1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1)Cast is an action – Casting the net –

C)Traffic – Casting – Lord I am giving this to you

1)I am not going to pick it up again

D)Daily – sometimes hourly – Lord this belongs to you – You are the burden bearer

All about Perspective – All about Pursuit

³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

Seek first the Kingdom

A)Convicting word – IS FIRST -

B)PRIORITY – Give yourself to pursuing Him – HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS –

C)Give yourself to being preoccupied with the things that He is preoccupied with –

LORD I am going to give you my stuff – and I want to focus on Your kingdom – Your heart

A)10 step cure for worry – do something kind for someone else – repeat that 9 times

³⁴ **Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

B)When you are tempted to borrow from tomorrow – (that is what worry is – borrowing from tomorrow)

**When you are tempted to borrow from tomorrow
–find a way to participate in what JESUS IS
DOING TODAY.**

Where is your treasure? Earth or heaven?

What is your perspective? Vision clear?
Distorted?

Who is your Master? Jesus – something else?

What is accomplished by worry? Nothing good!

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.