

***When will you?***  
Matthew 6:1-18

**INTRODUCTION:**

**I. Righteousness & Rewards (v.1)**

- A. Repent from self-righteousness
  - 1. Self-righteousness is revealed in the audience of our deeds (before men or God?)
  - 2. We don't repent from bad behavior (as if we were otherwise okay if not for some bad decisions)
  - 3. We repent from our self-righteousness
- B. Reward
  - 1. Satisfaction and joy is only for those who see Christ as their only righteousness before Holy God who gives to men what they deserve
  - 2. Sought before men? That's all you get.
    - a) v.2
    - b) **Matthew 25:23**

**II. When you Give (vv.2-4)**

- A. Giving, here, is that act of giving monetary resources to those who have need.
- B. Give quietly
  - 1. Trumpets

- 2. Not like hypocrites (originally, Greek word for actors using masks for varied roles)
- C. Give to the needy
  - 1. **Acts 2:45**
  - 2. **Acts 4:34-35**
- D. Give secretly
- E. **John Stott**, "*Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-congratulation.*"

**III. When you Pray (vv.5-15)**

- A. "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies."
- B. Pray privately
- C. Pray concisely
  - 1. Like Christ
  - 2. Address the Father (intimacy)
  - 3. Declare His holiness and independence (praise / purposes)
  - 4. Confess your dependence (sustenance / forgiveness / deliverance - from trying circumstances that could lead to temptation...connect with Heb. 4:14-16)
  - 5. Ask that grace received would be grace extended
  - 6. **John MacArthur**, "*You're never more like God than when you forgive.*"

**IV. When you Fast (vv.16-18)**

- A. Fast happily
- B. Fast purposely
  - 1. As with each discipline, it is for the purpose of treasuring Christ more
  - 2. **Matthew Henry**, *"If the solemnities of our fasting. though frequent, long, and severe, do not serve to put an edge upon devout affections, to quicken prayer, to increase Godly sorrow, and to alter the temper of our minds, and the course of our lives, for the better, they do not at all answer the intention, and God will not accept them as performed to Him."*
  - 3. Some biblical reasons to fast (**Whitney**): To strengthen prayer / To seek God's guidance / To express grief / To seek deliverance / To express repentance / To humble oneself before the Lord / To minister to others / To overcome temptation / To express love to God

**V. Seek His Righteousness (v.33)**

- A. The pursuit is glorifying God alone
  - 1. Through the expected, regular, disciplined practices of giving, praying, fasting
  - 2. By treasuring Christ above all
  - 3. This is why there is marked humility throughout chp.6

- B. Christ's righteousness is our standing ground in His Kingdom
- C. Giving, Praying, Fasting are all regular ways we are to treasure Christ and His righteousness in this world as people of His kingdom
  - 1. Giving away worldly treasures
  - 2. Running in dependence upon God, giving up your independence
  - 3. Remembering the Word of God (the gospel) is your primary nourishment, sustenance, and that Christ is your pleasure
  - 4. Next week, we'll talk most distinctly about worldly treasures

**CONCLUSION:**