
Day One – Recap of Matthew 5:21-48

I'm sure you took excellent notes over the sermon. I would suggest that you refer to them....

Just kidding...although it *would* be cool if you took notes. I am, however, going to keep it really simple this week.

1. Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament, which he did by living it out and bringing the new era to which it looked forward.
2. Jesus revises the law, which he did so that we would know just how important he is and just how seriously he is about holiness.
3. Jesus does not give us a new set of rules, which did about as much in Israel to promote holiness as they do everywhere. That is to say...very little.
4. Jesus wants us to be whole people. Whole people do everything with one overarching intention in mind. As citizens of the Kingdom of God, our overarching goal is to be perfect as our Father is perfect.
5. Our vision for life within the Kingdom of God is one marked by commitment to imitating the attributes of God.

Day Two – Read 6:1-18

Matthew 6:1 is the introduction to the teaching that is to follow.

How do you understand the warning *Beware of...*?

Explain *practicing your righteousness*.

What is the result of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them?

Day Three Read 6:1-18

Complete the outline below.

- I. Jesus talks about _____ (6:2-4)

II. Jesus talks about _____ (6:5-15)

III. Jesus talks about _____ (6:16-18)

Read Matthew 6:2-4.

What is the negative instruction and statement of reward?

What is the positive instruction and statement of reward?

Do you want to be recognized for your giving? If you are not, what is your reaction?

Can we apply this to anything you do for someone else or any service we render, not just giving?

How long can you serve in a position without the praise of other people and keep a good attitude?

Day Four – Read 6:1-18

Mark or make a list of every time the word **when** is used. What does the use of this word throughout this passage mean?

Read Matthew 6:5-6.

What is the negative instruction and statement of reward?

What is the positive instruction and statement of reward?

Define *hypocrite*. Be able to give some illustrations of a hypocrite, both from the bible and those you have seen.

Has anyone ever called you a hypocrite? Have you ever thought of yourself as a hypocrite?

Why do you not like to pray in public? Is there any pride in your reason?

Should we pray publicly? Why, or why not?

We will look at verses 7-15 (the model prayer) next week.

Day Five – Read 6:16-18

What is the negative instruction and statement of reward?

What is the positive instruction and statement of reward?

From **THE NEW BIBLE COMMENTARY**:

Leviticus 16:29–34 Instructions for the people. The annual date is given. The seventh (lunar) month falls in late September and early October. The day was one of utter solemnity and, therefore, not merely treated as a Sabbath, but also as a day of ‘affliction’. The command to *deny* oneself probably meant penitence and fasting (*cf.* Is. 58:3, 5, Ps.35:13).

The full details of the ritual for the Day of Atonement were given in ch. 16. All that was needed in this calendar was to remind the people of the importance of spiritual preparation for the day, especially the call to *deny yourselves*, which probably included fasting and other abstinence.

[Please read all of the bible references in the above note.]

Some references from the **NEW TOPICAL TEXTBOOK**:

1. Spirit of, explained. Isa 58:6,7.
2. Not to be made a subject of display. Mt 6:16-18.
3. Should be to God. Zec 7:5; Mt 6:18.
4. For the chastening of the soul. Ps 69:10.
5. For the humbling of the soul. Ps 35:13.

6. Observed on occasions of
 - a. Judgments of God. Joe 1:14; 2:12.
 - b. Public calamities. 2Sa 1:12.
 - c. Afflictions of the Church. Lu 5:33-35.
 - d. Afflictions of others. Ps 35:13; Da 6:18.
 - e. Private afflictions. 2Sa 12:16.
 - f. Approaching danger. Es 4:16.
 - g. Ordination of ministers. Ac 13:3; 14:23.
7. Accompanied by
 - a. Prayer. Ezr 8:23; Da 9:3.
 - b. Confession of sin. 1Sa 7:6; Ne 9:1,2.
 - c. Mourning. Joe 2:12.
 - d. Humiliation. De 9:18; Ne 9:1.
8. Promises connected with. Isa 58:8-12; Mt 6:1
9. Of hypocrites
 - a. Described. Isa 58:4,5.
 - b. Ostentatious. Mt 6:16.
 - c. Boasted of, before God. Lu 18:12.
 - d. Rejected. Isa 58:3; Jer 14:12.

What is the purpose of fasting? (consider #1 above; Isa.58:6,7; read Isaiah chapter 58)

Do you see the need to fast? If so, how should we include this practice in our lives to the glory of God?

Day Six

If you are looking to go a little bit deeper in your understanding of the text for this week, try one of these resources:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/index.php?action=getBookSections&cid=1&source=1>

<http://www.evangelibrary.org.uk/members/com/nt/jcr/mt/mat-Index.html>

Sermons Transcripts:

Ligon Duncan - http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew_vol_1-2/matthew_vol_1-2/index_Matthew_vol_1-2.html

Audio:

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/14/>

S. Lewis Johnson - http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew_master.html