

UNIT 3

MATTHEW 6:1-18

I/ Kingdom Piety

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.” (6:1)

“And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (6:4, 6, 18)

You sum up the whole of the New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator. In the same way, you sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. “Father” is the Christian name for God. –JI Packer

God's love inspires our action, but our action does not inspire God's love. Habits will not change God's love for us, but God's love for us should change our habits. –Justin Earley

Show when tempted to hide, and hide when tempted to show. –A.B. Bruce

II/ Giving (6:2-4)

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." –Acts 20:35

...but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. –2 Corinthians 8:5

III/ Praying (6:5-15)

“Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when, upon his knees, he comes face to face with God.” –Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

“This prayer of Christ is a great chart, as it were: but I cannot cross the sea on a chart. It is a map; but a man is not a traveler because he puts his finger across the map.” –Charles Spurgeon

If the words “as we also have forgiven our debtors” stick in our throats; if they cannot be spoken without the names and faces of those we have refused to forgive coming into our minds, then the first part of our prayer, “Forgive us our debts,” falls to the ground. The two are inseparably linked, for the man who knows his debt before God and turns to Him for forgiveness is the recipient of such grace that he cannot but share it with others.

–Sinclair Ferguson

“Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.” –W.S. Bowden

III/ Fasting (6:16-18)

Almost everywhere at all times fasting has held a place of great importance since it is closely linked with the intimate sense of religion. Perhaps this is the explanation for the demise of fasting in our day. When the sense of God diminishes, fasting disappears. –Edward Farrell

Christian fasting, at its root, is the hunger of a homesickness for God. –John Piper

- [3] 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?'
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.
- [4] Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.
- [5] Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
- [6] "Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
- [7] Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- [8] Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

–Isaiah 58:3-8