

Giving

Matthew 6:1-4:

"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. **2** Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, **do not sound a trumpet before you** as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **that they may have glory from men.**

Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.** **3** But when you do a charitable deed, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,** **4** that your charitable deed **may be in secret;** and your Father who sees in secret will Himself **reward you openly.**

Praying #1

Matthew 6:5

5 "And when you pray, **you shall not be like the hypocrites.** For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

1. NOT hypocritically to "be seen by men."

Matthew 23:5-7; Luke 20:46-47;

Numbers 15:38-41-remember God, not man

2. NOT all "public prayers" are condemned!

**Luke 1:10; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:23-31;
12:11-12; 16:25**

Praying #2

Matthew 6:6

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

- 1. Prayer is private communication with God. Genesis 20:1-7; 1 Kings 8:28-40; Psalm 55:16-17; Luke 18:1**
- 2. God "sees in secret" 6:4, 6, 18
He isn't impressed like a man would be!
God sees all. Genesis 16:1-14;
Psalm 33:13-15; John 12:44-45**

Praying #3

Matthew 6:5-8

7 “And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do.** For they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** **Therefore do not be like them.** For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

- 1. “Heathen” one who “acts under a mask” or insincerely. Psalm 26:1-5; Galatians 2:11-14; Jeremiah 42:19-21; Matthew 15:1-9**
- 2. Christians should NOT permit worship to follow the world’s pattern!**

Praying #4

Matthew 6:9-15

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10** Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. **13** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. **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.

2. CONTRAST

Praying #5

Matthew 6:9-15

- 1. To repeat "the Lord's prayer" is simply to quote Scripture, NOT offer a prayer.**
- 2. To repeat the same words over and over, by rote, is the very practice of the "hypocrites" that Jesus is condemning!**
- 3. God's "kingdom" has already come, and thus, this would be a meaningless phrase to use today! **Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28****
- 4. To request "daily bread" requires "daily prayer"**
- 5. God tempts NO ONE to sin! **James 1:13-17****
- 6. Asking God's forgiveness is useless if we will not forgive others' offenses against us.**

Fasting #1

Matthew 6:16-18

"Moreover, **when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites**, with a sad countenance. For **they disfigure their faces** that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

17 But **you, when you fast**, anoint your head and wash your face, **18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting**, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."**

"Moreover, **when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites**, with a sad countenance. For **they disfigure their faces** that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

- 1. The issue is not "whether" but "when."*
- 2. There never is a set date or time "when." **Ezra 9:1-6; Nehemiah 1:1-4; Psalm 35:11-13; Daniel 9:1-3; Mark 9:29; Acts 10:30; 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:15***
- 3. "Fasting, like "giving" and "prayer" is personal between a Christian and God.*
- 4. These 3 acts of devotion must NOT be associated with acts which call public attention to them.*

17 But **you, when you fast,** anoint your head and wash your face, **18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting,** but to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."**

1. Disciples live differently from "hypocrites."

Job 36:13-14; Psalm 26:3-8;

Jeremiah 42:19-22; Matthew 15:1-9;

23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 29; Luke 11:44

2. Disciples must do nothing **to please men.**

Galatians 1:10

3. "Giving," "Prayer," "Fasting" are spontaneous, not set, and are expressions associated with meeting needs.