



Sermons of the Savior

Matthew 6:1-8

Lesson 6

Jesus began this portion of His Sermon on the Mount with the words, *take heed*, calling those who would follow Him to beware and pay attention. There are good ways to *do charitable deeds* and *pray* and there are bad ways. There are ways to *do charitable deeds* and *pray* that will reap *rewards* and there are ways that will not. Why give and why pray if it does not touch the heart of God? Hypocrites do not ask that question. Their motive is not to touch God's heart, but to obtain *praise from men*. May we *take heed* to Jesus' warnings in these verses.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 6:1-8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
Key Words: *charitable deed(s)/pray, seen/sees, reward, Father, and secret*
Underline or highlight the phrases: *like/as the hypocrites/heathen* and *I say to you*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used two times in these verses. Mark the word as a key word. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore is* also used two times in these verses. Mark the word as a key word. Choose one and record what the conclusion was based upon.
5. Note and mark the word *assuredly*. What phrase does it precede?
 - a. Why do you think Jesus used this word?

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. In what ways can giving be selfish?
2. What images or thoughts spring to mind when you think of prayer:
before you were a believer

now that you are a believer
3. In what ways can prayer be displeasing to God?

CHARITABLE DEEDS: Read Matthew 6:1-4

1. What was Jesus' warning regarding *charitable deeds*?
 - a. Notice His exhortation in Matthew 5:16. What did Jesus say about good works?
 - b. Are these two instructions contradictory (Matthew 5:16, 6:1)? Why or why not?
2. We are not to be like the *hypocrites*. According to verse 2, why do they give to be *seen by men*?
3. In what ways do some organizations and churches encourage "showy" giving?
4. *A charitable deed is seen by men*. Jesus is warning that the *giver* not be *seen* or known. He is not referring to the gift. Why do we value recognition from others?
5. Sometimes it is difficult to give to someone in *secret*. How can we give when the person knows we are the giver, and still ensure the *glory* goes to *God*?
6. According to Matthew 6:3, not only are we not to *do charitable deeds before men*, we are not to dwell on it ourselves. How did Jesus explain this?
 - a. What can happen when we dwell on something good that we have done?

7. What does Matthew 6:4 reveal about our *Father*?

a. What does Psalm 139:1-3 add to the truth that *our Father sees in secret*?

HYPOCRITES: Read Matthew 6:1-8

1. The antithesis to proper giving of *charitable deeds* is found in Jesus' description of the *hypocrite*. Only once did Jesus use that word to describe someone other than the religious leaders of the time. Matthew 23 contains several of Jesus' tirades towards *hypocrites*. What actions angered Him?

verse

14

15

23

25

27

29

a. Describe these behaviors in language that better identifies *hypocritical* behavior today.

2. We are not to be *hypocrites* nor is our *doing of charitable deeds* or *praying to be like them*. Scan the verses from Matthew 6:1-8 and record the behavior of the *hypocrite/heathen*.

a. Notice that Jesus lumped the *hypocrite* (His name for the religious leaders) and the *heathen* (Gentiles) together. How do you think the religious leaders received this?

3. A *hypocrite* can be described as "one who acts a part". How do the actions of the *hypocrites* reveal their insincerity?

4. What do the following verses reveal about the heart of the *hypocrite*?

John 5:44

John 12:43

Galatians 6:12

REWARDS: Read Matthew 6:1-5

1. If a *charitable deed* is done in *secret*, who will still see it?
2. What will be the result of doing *charitable deeds before men to be seen by men*?
 - a. *They have their reward*. What *reward* were they seeking?
 - 1.) Ponder the *reward* of the praise or recognition of man. What are its benefits?
 - a.) What are its disadvantages?
3. What will be the result of doing *charitable deeds in secret*?
4. God often presents the promise of *rewards* as an incentive to faithfulness. What do the following verses teach us about *rewards*?

Matthew 10:41,42

Matthew 16:27

Luke 6:35

Colossians 3:24

Hebrews 11:6

Revelation 22:12
5. The Bible reveals little about the *rewards* that God will bestow. Yet, it speaks often of them. When you think about *rewards* from God, what do you imagine?
 - a. What **reward** do you desire from God? Why?
6. Although you do not know what your *rewards* will be, why is an unknown *reward* from God, better than a known *reward/recognition* from man?
7. We do know some of the *rewards* God promises in this life for faithful giving. According to the following verses, what are they?

Proverbs 11:25

Psalm 41:1-3

Malachi 3:10

2 Corinthians 9:10

Philippians 4:19

- a. Why do you think it is so difficult for Christians to believe these verses in a way that prompts *doing charitable deeds*?

PRAYER: Read Matthew 6:5-8

1. The *hypocrites prayed to be seen*. Why is this a wrong motive?
2. What instructions are given, to those who would follow Christ, in Matthew 6:6,7?
 - a. What common or overused expressions do you hear frequently repeated in people's prayers?
 - b. What is often the result of praying the same words over and over?
 - c. *Vain repetitions* refer to speaking foolishly, chattering, babbling. How does this help your understanding of what Jesus tells us to avoid?
3. According to verse 8, why is it unnecessary to repeat the same words or use *many words*?
 - a. What do these verses reveal about this truth?

Psalm 38:9

Psalm 69:17-19

Luke 12:30

 - 1.) How does knowing that God already "knows" encourage you to pray?
 - b. Some would counter, "since God *knows the things you have need of before you ask*, why pray?" What would you say to them?
 - 1.) What does Philippians 4:6 remind us?

REVIEW: Read Matthew 6:1-8

1. Share something you learned from this lesson about:

doing charitable deeds

hypocrites

rewards

prayer

2. Why do you think Jesus stressed *secrecy* in *giving* and *praying*?
3. In what ways have you been motivated by this lesson to watch for *hypocrisy* in your life?
4. What does it mean to you to know God is watching as you *give* and *pray*?

*Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes,
who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness
and reveal the counsels of the hearts.
Then each one's praise will come from God.
- 1 Corinthians 4:5*

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 6:1-8

¹ "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. 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. 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. 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.