

Matthew

Chapter 6



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read through this week's assignment, Matthew 6. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 5-7, if you haven't already done so.

Day 1 - Good Advice

Matthew 6:1-18

As Jesus continued to teach, He emphasized the importance of caring for the poor. This section outlined three practices of righteousness, but the emphasis is not so much on the deed as it is on the motive behind it.

- 1) What posture did Jesus expect of His followers when it came to charity? (v.1-4)

- 2) What would the result be if Jesus' disciples followed the ways of the world in their giving? (v.1)

- 3) What was the motive of the hypocrites? What can they expect from God? (v.2)

See also Matthew 23:5-7. _____

- 4) How did Jesus describe the way the righteous gave to the poor? What was the result? (v.3-4).

See also Colossians 3:23-24 _____

- 5) **What should our posture be in prayer? What did God promise to do for those who pray according to His teaching? (v.5-6)

- 6) Describe the way pagans prayed. Why were followers of Jesus told to pray differently? (v.7-8)

Let's look at the Lord's Prayer. This prayer was one of the first recorded prayers of Jesus in the Gospels. It was originally given as a model for the disciples and was placed intentionally in the center of the Sermon on the Mount.

- 7) The Lord's Prayer listed six petitions. What did the first three have in common? (v.9-10)

- 8) What did the second three have in common? (v.11-13)

- 9) Why do you think Jesus patterned the prayer as He did?

What do the following verses add:

a) Psalm 37:4 _____

b) Matthew 22:37 _____

c) Colossians 3:2 _____

10) God encouraged us to ask for what? What does that look like for you, today? (v.11)

11) The NIV translation used the word "debts." What does this word mean? (v.12)
This petition involved action on our part. What was it?

See also:

a) Ephesians 4:32 _____

b) Colossians 3:13 _____

12) **What will happen if we refuse to forgive others? (v.14-15)

13) The Lord's Prayer concluded with a request for protection from temptation and evil. What is your part in that request?

See also:

a) James 4:7 _____

b) 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 _____

c) Romans 12:21 _____

d) Galatians 5:16 _____

14) What instruction did Jesus give regarding fasting? (v.16-18)

15) What was at the heart of this instruction?

See also 1 John 2:6. _____

Day 2 - Money and Worry

Matthew 6:19-34

1) The danger of money was a common topic in the New Testament, but riches and wealth in and of themselves were not condemned. What was Jesus' warning? (v.19)

2) What was the focus of Jesus' instructions? What was He condemning?
(v.19-21)

See also:

a) Matthew 13:22 _____

b) Matthew 19:21-24 _____

c) Luke 12:16-21 _____

d) Hebrews 13:5 _____

3) **What logical conclusion did Jesus make about the focus of our lives? (v. 21)

4) What do you think Jesus was saying in verses 22 and 23?

5) What conclusion did Jesus make regarding the power of money? (v.24)

See also:

a) Psalm 86:11 _____

b) 1 Kings 8:61 _____

- 6) Jesus didn't just instruct His followers not to worry; He told them why. Summarize what He said. (v.25-26)

- 7) What does worrying accomplish? (v. 27)

- 8) God referenced His care for what as an example of His care for us? (v.26, 28-29)

See also:

- a) Genesis 1:31 _____

- b) Psalm 104:14 _____

- c) Psalm 145:9 _____

- d) Matthew 10:29-31 _____

- 9) According to Jesus, worry is an indication of what? (v.30)

- a) With what does the world concern itself? (v.31-32) _____

- b) By contrast, where should Jesus' followers focus? What promise was attached to that instruction? (v.33) _____

- 10) **Summarize Jesus' conclusion of this portion in your own words. What are you worrying about today? What would Jesus suggest you do with your worry? See also Philippians 4:6.

- 11) Read and meditate on Psalm 23. How can you apply this psalm to help combat worry in your life?

- 12) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots...

Matthew 6 is rich with Old Testament themes as Jesus called His followers back to the heart of what God had always desired. This chapter centered on seeking God's approval rather than the applause of humans and also trusting in our heavenly Father's care and involvement in our lives.

- 1) Research these Old Testament Scriptures to see the foundation of Jesus' teaching. (v.1-4)

a) 1 Samuel 16:7 _____

b) Isaiah 29:13-16 _____

c) Zechariah 7:9-10 _____

- 2) Investigate these Old Testament Scriptures. What instructions do you find here? What was God concerned about in these verses?

a) Deuteronomy 15:7-11 _____

b) Proverbs 19:17 _____

c) Isaiah 58:6-10 _____

3) Read Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-11. What connections do you see in her prayer and in the concepts in the Lord's Prayer? (v.5-14)

a) God's holiness: _____

b) God's sovereignty: _____

c) God's provision: _____

d) God's deliverance: _____

4) What do you learn from these Old Testament insights regarding fasting?

a) Joel 2:12-13 _____

b) Isaiah 58:3-7 _____

c) Ezra 8:21-23 _____

5) The wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) of the Old Testament repeatedly warned about the dangers of worldly riches. What instructions can you take from the following passages?

a) Proverbs 11:28 _____

b) Proverbs 23:4-5 _____

c) Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 _____

Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

How do you see the character, values, and emotions of Jesus in this passage? Who were His followers? What did they look like?

Jesus lived out the principles of Matthew 6 perfectly. Look up these examples from the life of Jesus to learn more about how He applied His own teaching to His real life.

1. Jesus was interested in whose recognition? What was His posture in doing good works?

a) Matthew 8:4, Mark 1:44 _____

b) Acts 10:38 _____

c) John 7:18 _____

d) John 8:50 _____

2) **What specific things do you learn from Jesus about the importance of and focus of your prayers?

a) Mark 1:35 _____

b) Luke 5:16 _____

c) Luke 6:12-13 _____

d) John 17 _____

3) What was Jesus' relationship to money and true wealth? What can you learn from Him?

a) Matthew 8:20 _____

b) Luke 20:20-25 _____

c) Hebrews 12:1-3 _____

4) What did Jesus teach us about serving one master?

a) John 4:34 _____

b) John 6:38 _____

c) Luke 22:42 _____

5) Jesus not only taught about forgiveness, He demonstrated it. What do you see in His example?

a) Mark 2:1-12 _____

b) Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-17 _____

c) Luke 23:34 _____

6) **How does Jesus inspire you or challenge you? How can you seek to be more like Him in your everyday life?

7) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 6 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God's living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

1) What part of God's redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

2) **What assumptions from this passage quietly challenge you in your life (ideas about identity, comfort, control, security, significance, etc.)?

3) Where do you see yourself in this story. Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?

4) **What part of God's kingdom seemed upside down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) **What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood, what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?
