



It Takes Two Wings to Fly
Matthew 6:9-18
Sunday, May 20, 2018

The enemy of our souls is an expert at pushing us to extremes. One extreme is fanaticism; the other, lethargy. It doesn't make any difference to Satan at which extreme we end up, as long as he can keep us teetering on the edge, far from the balanced Christian life.

The extreme that Jesus addresses in today's passage is showiness – making a public display of one's piety.

I. How to Give...How to Pray (Matt 6:1-8)

II. Take Note: When Praying...When Fasting (Matt 6:9-13)

A. "Pray This Way..."

(These 3 requests – for bread, for _____, for _____ – may also reveal a glimmer of the Trinity.)

B. The atmosphere around your fast...

There were also some very specific reasons for fasting. There were...

- _____ fasts for Jews, like the one on the Day of Atonement.
- Fasts associated with national _____.
- Sometimes people fasted to _____ their quest for God.
- Fasts to prepare a person to undergo _____. (Matt. 4:1-2)

Even in our day, fasting offers a variety of benefits:

- It is good for _____.
- It brings fresh perspective and helps us _____.
- It causes us to be more _____.
- It _____ life by bringing us back to the basics.

III. How Can We Make It Happen?

- A. Make God, _____, your main focus.
- B. Make the secret place, not the public place, your primary _____.

Let's Talk It Over

What do you think was the main point in this week's message? What did God teach you through the message this weekend?

Read Matthew 6:9-18

- Q1.** Read Matthew 6:5-8. Where do you go when you need to pray?
- Q2.** What do you find yourself praying for most often?
- Q3.** What change in personal pronouns do you notice between v5-8 and v9-13? Is this a "closet prayer"?
- Q4.** In praying, what do you find is your biggest challenge?
- Q5.** What three things related to God should be expressed in prayer (v9-10)?
- Q6.** What three things related to our needs should be expressed afterwards (v11-13)?
- Q7.** What do v12,14,15 say to you about the relationship between forgiving and being forgiven?
- Q8.** Is there someone you need to forgive (whether they have asked for forgiveness or not? Whether they "deserve" forgiveness or not?)
- Q9.** What is the purpose of fasting? In what situations might fasting be helpful?

Q10. Respond to this statement by Richard Foster: "More than any other spiritual discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us."

This Week in the Word

Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver

Matthew 7:6-12

Preparing for 5/27/2018

Day 1: Read Matthew 7:6-12.

Q1. Who are the "dogs" and "pigs" Jesus refers to in v6?

Q2. Respond to what A.W. Pink writes: "Not every person is a fit subject for reproof and correction." Read also 2 Tim 2:23-26.

Day 2: Read Matthew 7:6-12 in a different translation.

Q3. Prayer is the only topic Jesus deals with twice in the Sermon on the Mount (6:5-13 and 7:7-11). Why do you think Jesus returns to the topic of prayer twice?

Q4. One writer says: "We make complicated what God makes simple." What is that simple thing God tells us to do here?

Day 3: Read Matthew 7:6-12 in a different translation.

Q5. Respond to this statement by Oswald Chambers: "The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will finally hear Him."

Q6. What are the promises associated with ask-seek-knock? What does "seek" and "knock" mean in addition to "ask"?

Day 4: Read Matthew 7:6-12 in a different translation.

Q7. Is this a "blank check" promise to ask for anything / everything? Read Mt 6:33.

Q8. How have you experienced God's answering - finding - opening in your life?

Day 5: Read Matthew 7:6-12 in a different translation.

Q9. What are the "good gifts" God wants to give? Read the following for ideas - Gal 5:22-23; 2 Pt 1:5-8; Col 1:9-13; Phil 1:9-11. Are these on your prayer list?

Q10. v12. What do we fundamentally want others to do to us? How can this guide us in what to do for others?

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