

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Taking a Look at Matthew Chapters Six

The Sermon of the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7) is ONE, unified teaching. Dallas Willard says “The aim of the sermon is to help people come to hopeful and realistic terms with their lives here on earth by clarifying, in concrete terms, the nature of the kingdom into which they are now invited by Jesus call”.

Sincere Good Works - (Matthew 6:1-18)

Doing the right things for the wrong reasons (e.g. to gain the honor and recognition of others) undermines the purity of our good works. Jesus encourages us to let our good deeds be seen so that onlookers will glorify God (chapter 5), not that they will be impressed by us (chapter 6).

[Concept of the “Audience of One” (Col 3:17, 23-24). Jesus should be the audience that motivates us and that we play to. We should do everything as if we were doing it for Him and for His glory].

Jesus desires for His followers to do sincere (properly motivated) good works. Sincere good works draw us closer to God, strengthens His Kingdom, benefit others and benefit ourselves. Three specific works are highlighted in this section:

1) Giving (verses 1-4)

Giving should be motivated by our desire to help people, not bring honor to us. God will reward us for properly motivated giving.

2) Prayer (verses 5-15)

Prayer should be sincere from the heart, not techniques or formulas to try and manipulate God. The Lord’s prayer models a balance including worship, focus on God’s kingdom, character development and meeting of needs.

3) Fasting (verses 16-18)

Fasting helps us focus on God and attract His attention. It humbles and softens us, and helps us better concentrate and increase our sensitivity to working of the Spirit.

Don't Worry About Wordly Things – Seek God's Kingdom and His Righteousness
(Matthew 6:25-34)

- We need to avoid loving the world (James 4:4; I John 2:15-17); we should be content with having our basic needs met and not weary ourselves out trying to gain money/possessions (I Tim 6:6-11)

- We should not worry, but trust God to provide (prayer is a tool to help us focus on Him instead of worrying – Phil 4:6-7; I Peter 5:7)

- Our priority in life should be to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness – God is capable of meeting our earthly needs (Phil 4:19)