

Get Real - The Sermon On The Mount, Part 2

- **Matthew 5:1-2 (MSG)** When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching His disciples, not preaching to sinners. In fact, ***The Message*** introduces this passage to show us that Jesus always expects more from His disciples than He does from the crowd. As He “climbs higher” with His disciples, instead of Jesus telling us what HE wants to do for US (salvation), He now tells us what He wants US to do for HIM (discipleship).
- The Sermon on the Mount is all about becoming a “climbing companion” of Jesus. It is about GETTING REAL with God, with ourselves, and with others.
- The first part of Jesus’ sermon in Matthew 5 taught us to get real in HOW WE LIVE and to get real in WHAT WE BELIEVE. The second part in Matthew 6 will teach us something equally important ... to get real in our SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES.
- **Matthew 6:1 (MSG)** Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding.
- The Message is very accurate in paraphrasing this verse, because Jesus uses the Greek word “theaomai” which is the original root of our English word “theater.” Jesus is identifying the most common temptation in the area of spiritual discipline ... the temptation to craft a public image that is vastly different than our private reality.
- WHY ARE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES IMPORTANT? Because they help us conquer our old nature and let our new nature gain the supremacy in our three basic areas of spiritual struggle:
- **1 John 2:16 (KJV)** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- Matthew 6:1 introduces 3 areas of spiritual discipline (“when ye give, pray, fast” - v. 2, 5, 16) where we are tempted to “talk” more than we “walk.” But when we playact in spiritual matters, we become hypocrites (literally, “actors wearing masks” - v. 2, 5, 16) who already have their reward (literally, “wages for work done” - v. 2, 5, 16).
- Giving, praying or fasting that is motivated by a desire to impress others is not rewarded by God. Because you have chosen to receive the “public” reward, you have eliminated the better “private” reward.

WHEN YOU GIVE

- **Matthew 6:2-4 (MSG)** When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure — ‘playactors’ I call them — treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that's all they get. **When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it — quietly and unobtrusively.** That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.
 - **DID YOU KNOW ... ?**
 - The Bible talks more about giving than it does about either Heaven or Hell?
 - Over half of the parables Jesus told have to do with the subject of money?
 - There are more promises in the Bible related to giving than to any other subject?
 - **Giving is an important discipline because it helps us conquer the LUST OF THE EYES. (The lust of the eyes says “I want”)**
1. **GIVING CONQUERS THE LUST FOR “STUFF”**

1 Timothy 6:17 (MSG) Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage.
 2. **GIVING CONQUERS THE LUST FOR “ME”**

1 Timothy 6:18 (CEV) Instruct them to do as many good deeds as they can and to help everyone. Remind the rich to be generous and share what they have.
 3. **GIVING CONQUERS THE LUST FOR “NOW”**

1 Timothy 6:19 (LB) By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.
 4. **GIVING PROVES THAT GOD IS MY SOURCE**

Malachi 3:10 (NLT) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do, says the Lord Almighty, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!

WHEN YOU PRAY

- **Matthew 6:5-9a (MSG)** And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? Here's what I want you to do: **Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God.** Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. **The focus will shift from you to God,** and you will begin to sense his grace. The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:
- **Prayer is an important discipline because it helps us conquer the PRIDE OF LIFE. (The pride of life says "I'm in charge")**
- Notice two things about Jesus' instructions:
 - We are taught how not to pray before we are taught how to pray! (we need to have the right ATTITUDE in prayer, and then we also need to have the right APPROACH in prayer)
 - Jesus is not condemning repeated requests (He told us to "ask, seek and knock" in Matthew 7:8, and He made the same request – "let this cup pass from me" – several times in Matthew 27)
- When the KJV refers to "vain repetitions" the Greek wording means "to speak without thinking" (modern equivalent: "a broken record"). Therefore, the Lord's Prayer (really the "Disciple's Prayer") is not given to be repeated, but to help us avoid meaningless repetition!
- This is a PRAYER OUTLINE – six topics to bathe in prayer daily.
- **Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)** After this manner therefore pray ye:
 - **PRAISE:** Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
 - **PURPOSE:** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
 - **PROVISION:** Give us this day our daily bread.
 - **PARDON:** And forgive us our debts,
 - **PEOPLE:** As we forgive our debtors.
 - **PROTECTION:** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
 - **PRAISE:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Illustrations:

- Praise** – hand raised in worship
- Purpose** – thumbs up (God's approval)
- Provision** – point (to things I want)
- Pardon** – longest finger (went too far)
- People** – ring finger (relationships)
- Protection** – bend finger back (pain)



SIX WAYS TO GET A GRIP ON PRAYER

- After He concludes His "PRAYER OUTLINE" Jesus adds one crucial postscript as a reminder that we must "GET REAL" in prayer:
- **Matthew 6:14-15 (MSG)** In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.

WHEN YOU FAST

- **Matthew 6:16-18 (MSG)** When you practice some **appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God,** don't make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity but it won't make you a saint. **If you 'go into training' inwardly, act normal outwardly.** Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. God doesn't require attention-getting devices. He won't overlook what you are doing; he'll reward you well.
- **Fasting is an important discipline because it helps us conquer the LUST OF THE FLESH. (The lust of the flesh says "I need")**
- Fasting is negative for the flesh but positive for the spirit. It intensifies your prayer life like nothing else can.
- **Mark 9:29 (KJV)** And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.
- **Isaiah 58:4-5 (MSG)** You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight. You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won't get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call that fasting, a fast day that I, God, would like?
- Your fast is between you and God, not to impress anyone else with how spiritual you are. You are not denying your flesh at all when your flesh gets public credit for all the denial it is enduring! Especially in a spiritual discipline like fasting, we must "GET REAL!"