

“Christ’s Righteous-Rewards Principle”

Matthew 6:1-18

August 3, 2025

INTRO: *Ever wondered why Jesus taught what He taught?*

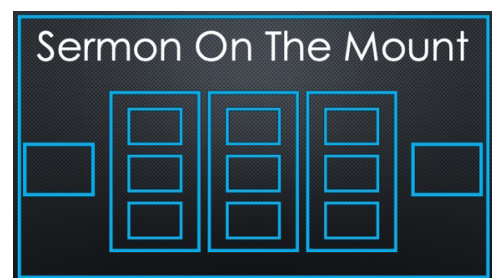
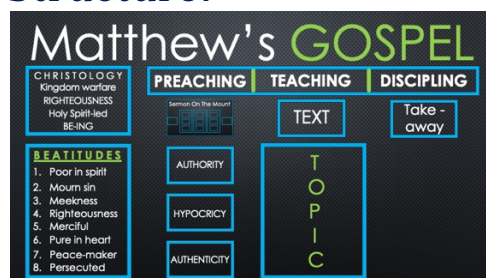
- Consider what AND why He taught & shocked.
- He taught what was needed because He loves us...
- *Let Heb. 4:12; Ps. 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jn. 20:21 stir you!*
- ***TRUTH IN LOVE... DOES WHAT JESUS DID!***

How often have you and I helped to keep sinners easy in their sin... by our inconsistency! Had we been true Christians, the wicked man would often have been pricked to the heart, and his conscience would have convicted him. – Spurgeon

PRAYER

CONTEXT:

- Series: **mMm** (Matthew’s Gospel on Christ’s Gospel)
- Structure:



- Ch. 1-4 (*Christology; Warfare; Righteousness, Spirit-led*)
- Ch.5 (**BE-ing/Vision, Correction, & Mission**)
- **Missional Scriptures** (3:15,17-4:1,17,19-5:6,17,20,48)
- Ch.6 *Christ on Righteousness, Hypocrisy, & Reward*

BIG IDEA: (Almighty God is preaching & teaching us...)

Wrong-hearted DO-ing of right-looking deeds is hypocrisy... AND one of the Devils most dangerous double-edged weapons of deception.

BE-ing > DO-ing!

BE-ING DOES WHAT DO-ING DOESN'T!

Even when we're right, if we're not righteous, we're wrong!

THINK ABOUT IT...

When "love" becomes a strategy... it's not love, it's manipulation!

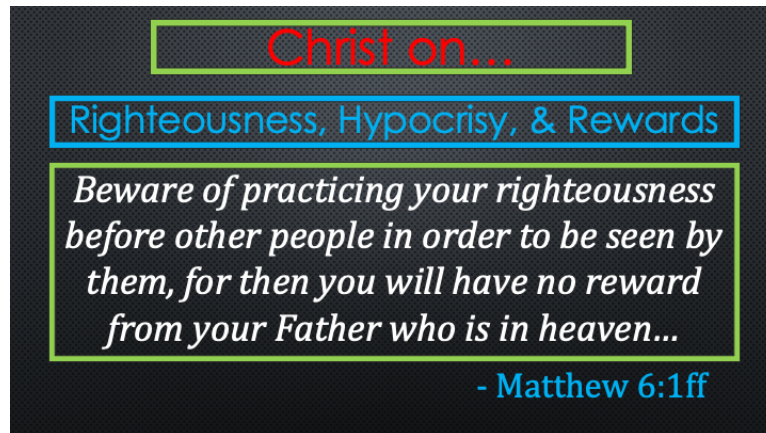
T/S: Today will be a little different... we're **zooming out**.

PREVIEW:

1. Principles
2. Particulars
3. Practices

TEXT:

I. PRINCIPLES (Matthew 6:1)



JESUS HARMONIZES WITNESS & WARNING (SEE 5:16; 5:20; & 6:1)

Creator Christ is crystal clear here.
Unholy hypocrites are heading to hell...
BUT... His biblically-righteous heirs have their
eternal hope & homes in heaven.

BE-ing > DO-ing!



Don't miss His loving grace, mercy, & mission here.

Christ is... compassionately-confronting, contrasting,
convicting, correcting, & clarifying!

BECAUSE...

Christ is fulfilling ALL righteousness... by, in part...
defining, & describing, & exposing &
calling-out, & warning the **unrighteous!**

REMEMBER...

This good news is sound, defining & dividing doctrine.

Colossians 3:23-24

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working
for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that
you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Revelation 22:12

*"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and
I will give to each person according to what they have done.*

T/S: WATCH FOR THIS EXHORTATION PATTERN...
(Righteousness, Hypocrisy, & Rewards)

Christ's **Righteous-REWARDS Principle** starts with Gospel GRACE & ends with God's GLORY!



**ONE HELPFUL THING ABOUT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES
IS THEY ARE ALWAYS UNBREAKABLE.**

VIDEO:

"Don't Give, Pray, Fast To Be Seen"
(The Bible Project)

II. PARTICULARS (Matthew 6:2-8 & 16-18) (Giving, Praying, & Fasting)



- These particulars are **not 3 random acts**... No!
- These particulars are a **representative sample**...

A. GIVING (vv. 2-4)

²“**Thus**, **when you** give to the needy, sound **no** trumpet before you, as the **hypocrites do** in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be **praised by others**.

Truly, I say to you, they have received **their reward**. ³**But** **when you** give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may **be in secret**. And your Father who sees in secret **will reward you**.

VIDEO:

“Don’t Let Your L & R Hand Know...”
(GotQuestions.org)

- Let’s apply “Christ’s Righteous Rewards Principle”
- **SEE CHRIST’S PERSPECTIVE ON GIVING**



B. PRAYING

*⁵“And **when you** pray, you must **not** be like the **hypocrites**. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues & at the street corners, that they may be **seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received **their reward**. ⁶**But when you** pray, go into your room & shut the door & pray to your Father who is **in secret**. And your Father who sees in secret **will reward you**. ⁷“and when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

Biblical HYPOCRISY:

- Defined = **theatrical mask-wearing; inauthenticity**
- Jesus used the word more than seems balanced
- **Positional & Eternal vs. Occasional & Stumble**
 - Outward “looks” & physical appearance (Mt.23)
 - Giving/Generosity to be noticed by others...
 - Praying plastic prayers to be seen by others.
 - Fake religious piety (i.e. fasting) to be seen...
 - Perverting God’s Word for sin or gain...
 - Taking advantage of vulnerable people...
 - Misguided & lukewarm attraction models...
 - Traditionalism overshadows God’s Word...
 - Elevated personal priorities & platforms...
 - Unjust religious judgement of others...
 - Persecuting the convicting truth-tellers...
- **Matthew 23 unites hypocrites with His WOE’s!**

Remember:
BOTH DOCTRINE AND MOTIVE MATTER!

VIDEO:
“All Christians Are Hypocrites”
(Apologist Frank Turek)

- Let's apply “Christ's Righteous Rewards Principle”
- **SEE CHRIST'S PERSPECTIVE ON PRAYING**



C. FASTING

¹⁶“And **when you** fast, do **not** look gloomy like the **hypocrites**, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be **seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received **their reward**. ¹⁷**But when you** fast, **anoint your head** and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is **in secret**. And your Father who sees in secret **will reward you**.

➤ Let's apply *"Christ's Righteous Rewards Principle"*

➤ **SEE CHRIST'S PERSPECTIVE ON FASTING**



T/S: *Jesus continues to preach, teach, model, & command His "righteous rewards principle" going forward...*



VIDEO: *"Anointing Oil"*
(The Bible Project)

III. PRACTICES

Consider Christianity's biblical & missional, & practices:

- Giving, Praying, Fasting...
- Forgiving, Treasuring, Serving...
- Worrying, Prioritizing, Judging...
- Discerning, Pursuing, Walking...
- Inspecting, Producing, Expecting...
- Building, Worshipping, Evangelizing...
- Outreaching, Unifying, Discipling...



REVIEW:

Remember what Jesus is doing... then, there, here & now.

- *Creator Christ came as the world's LORD & Savior!*
- He came as Gen. 3:15's promised serpent-killer...
- He came to give life and kill death!
- *He came as the Great Ark in the flood of all sin.*
- He came as the promised Passover Lamb of God.
- He came as Isaiah's sacrificially suffering Servant.
- *He came as The Gospel's eternal Goliath slayer.*
- He came *"to fulfill all righteousness"* for/with us!
- He came Spirit-led to save & sanctify souls.
- *He came as The faithful Fisher of "fishers of men."*
- He came as both blessing & Blessor of beatitudes.
- He came as the pure & perfect Prince of all peace!
- *He came as the ultimate Truth & Love... all IN One.*
- He came as The holy (3X) antithesis of hypocrisy!

CLOSE:

(Almighty God is preaching & teaching us...)

Wrong-hearted DO-ing of right-looking deeds is hypocrisy... AND one of the Devils most dangerous double-edged weapons of deception.

BE-ing > DO-ing!

BE-ING DOES WHAT DO-ING CAN'T!

Even when we're right, if we're not righteous, we're wrong!

Christ & His righteousness should be missionally & miraculously, Gospel-grounded in the motives of our hearts.

- Unrighteous *giving* gets NO Gospel guarantees.
- Unrighteous *praying* procures NO promises.
- Unrighteous *fasting* is a nothing more than a *faker's-diet... a big fat lie that falls flat on its face.*

- We've learned today, as important as it is to do the right thing(s), BEing simultaneously righteous in motive & methods, along with our attitudes & actions, is **even more important.**

ALWAYS remember: some people **DIVE** into the pit of hell... others **FALL** into the pit of hell... many more, no doubt, **SLIP** down slippery slopes into hell... but perhaps **most tragic** of all are those who slowly **WALK** down the gradual steps of self-righteous hypocrisy... into hell's eternal damnation.

May we/they all hear & head the loving Word of our LORD.

Amen & AMEN

PRAYER

WORSHIP: *"The Proof Of Your Love" & "Preach"*