

## Matthew 6:16-34

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33

PRAYER: Father, please teach me not to worry. As I study Matthew 6:16-34, please show me how much You care about all my needs.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 6:16-34, Jesus teaches His disciples about fasting and about how intimately God cares for their every need. We'll learn how much God cares about what we do in secret. Apprehending these truths will help us make His kingdom and His righteousness our priority.

### Matthew 6:16-34 Outline:

Fasting - Read Matthew 6:16-18

Wealth - Read Matthew 6:19-34

1. In this week's text, Jesus again refers to hypocrites. What is the meaning of hypocrite? (See previous study guide.)

## Fasting - Read Matthew 6:16-18

2. Jesus gave His disciples instruction on the discipline of fasting (v. 16-17). What can we infer from Jesus' repeated statement "when *you* fast"?
  
3. When Jesus' disciples fasted, they were to not be like the hypocrites in their fasting. What specific hypocritical actions were they not to emulate?
  
4. PROPOUND: How do you think the hypocrites "disfigured their faces" to appear to be fasting? (See Matthew 6:16.)
  
5. When Jesus' disciple fasted, what specific actions were they to take and why (vv. 17-18)?
  
6. When fasting is done as Jesus instructs, what is the benefit (v.18)?
  
7. They hypocrites gave (Matthew 6:2), prayed (Matthew 6:5), and fasted (v. 16) to be seen by others. What did they receive for doing these good works in the manner that they performed them?

8. When we give, pray, and fast, how are we to do these good works?
9. PROMOTE: Jesus didn't want His disciples to give, fast, and pray to be seen by others, like the hypocrites. In Matthew 5:16, He said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." What's the difference?
10. What will be the results of doing these good works in the manner that Jesus specified (vv. 4, 6, 18)?
11. PROTECT: Jesus said three times, "God sees in secret" (Matthew 6:4, 6,18). Give some thought to what this means and how it should affect your life.

## **Wealth - Read Matthew 6:19-34**

12. Jesus says that we should not treasure treasures, specifically temporal treasures of this earth. How does He describe the temporality of these treasures (v. 19)?

13. Instead of laying up earthly treasures, where should we strive to store up treasure for ourselves?

14. PROPOUND: What is Jesus implying by saying, “Where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal?”

15. PRODUCE: Describe how we can store up treasures in heaven. (See Matthew 10:42, Luke 14:12-14, 1 Corinthians 3:14, and Philipians 4:10-20.)

16. If the things we treasure are here on earth, where will our heart be? If we treasure things above, where will our heart be (v. 21)? (See also Colossians 3:1-4.)

17. PROCEED: Jesus commanded His disciples to “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” What can we infer from the fact that the word *treasures* is plural (v. 20)? Be prepared to share your answer with the group.

18. Jesus said, “The lamp of the body is the eye” (v. 22). Describe what our body will be like if our eye is good, and if it is bad.

19. PROPOUND: In Matthew 6:22, Jesus said the “eye” is the lamp of the body—not “eyes.” Why?

20. Jesus said that no one could serve two masters (v. 24). What masters did He specifically refer to, and what attitude(s) would a person with two masters have? (See also Matthew 13:22.)

21. PROPOUND: What can be learned from Jesus’ statement, “No one can serve two masters”?

22. Jesus told His disciples not to worry about their life (v. 25). What specific things did He say *not* to worry about (v. 25)?

23. What do the birds of the air *not* do? What happens to them despite the lack of these actions (v.26)? (See also Matthew 10:29.)

24. PROPOUND: Regarding the birds of the air (Mt. 6:26), Jesus refers to “your heavenly Father,” not “their heavenly Father.” Why?

25. PROPOUND: Answer the question Jesus asks (v. 27): “Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”

26. What do the lilies of the field *not* do (v. 28)? Despite the lack of these actions, what do the lilies and grass of the field receive from God?

27. The things Jesus said not to worry about are essential to life. Why should Jesus’ disciples not worry about these crucial things (v. 31-32)?

28. Instead of worrying about these important things, what two specific things does Jesus instruct His disciples to do (v. 33)?

29. PRACTICE: What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)?

30. PROCLAIM: In addition to seeking first the kingdom of God, true disciples are to seek first His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). What does this mean?

31. What are the results of doing these things (v. 33)?

32. PROPOUND: Will God "add all these things unto you" just because you are His disciple? If not, what's required of you?

33. Why are Jesus' disciples not to worry about tomorrow (v. 34)?

34. PROPOUND: What does “sufficient for the day is its own trouble” mean?

PROCESS: Take some time to review what you've learned about God's intimate care for your needs, and how you ought to focus on His kingdom and righteousness. Be prepared to share your insights with the group.

PRAY: Father, please help me to trust You for all my needs, and help me to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness in my life.

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