

The Life and Mission of Jesus Christ on Earth

Lesson Twelve -- Matthew 6:1-34

Summary of Lesson

We continue in this lesson to study the sermon delivered by Jesus on the mount after He had called the twelve men to become His disciples. In our last lessons we discussed the fifth chapter of Matthew, along with its parallels in Mark and Luke. In this lesson we study the sixth chapter of Matthew, which has no parallel recording elsewhere in the gospels. The remainder of the sixth chapter of Luke is parallel to the seventh chapter of Matthew. In our lesson today Jesus deals with the matter of worship (in particular -- prayer, almsgiving and fasting) teaching the multitude that it is to be done with sincerity and not ostentatiously (for show or praise of men). In this He gives His disciples a model prayer, vs. 9-13. After this, He tells them that they can find real security only in heaven, and contrasts such with earthly security and consequent anxieties (worry), vs. 19-34.

Matthew 6:1-34

{1} "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. {2} "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. {3} "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, {4} "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. {5} "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. {6} "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. {7} "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. {8} "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. {9} "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth

as it is in heaven. {11} Give us this day our daily bread. {12} And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. {13} And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. {14} "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. {15} "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. {16} "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. {17} "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, {18} "so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. {19} "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; {20} "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. {21} "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. {22} "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. {23} "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is

that darkness! {24} "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. {25} "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? {26} "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? {27} "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? {28} "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; {29} "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. {30} "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? {31} "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' {32} "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. {33} "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. {34} "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Questions on Lesson Twelve

1. Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like what?
2. What must we do if we expect God to forgive us?
3. What do the hypocrites do when they fast? Why?
4. Why not worry about what shall happen tomorrow (Two reasons)?
5. In prayer, what are Christians not to use?
6. What are we not to do when giving alms? What does this mean? Who was guilty of this?
7. If we have stored up treasures on the earth, where will our affections be?
8. Why did Jesus say there was no need for us to be like the heathen who prays with "much speaking"?
9. What did the disciples of Jesus not have enough of?
10. What is the purpose of not letting our right hand know what our left hand is doing?
11. What is impossible for a man to do?
12. What is the relationship in number between the spiritual things and the physical things for which Christ requested in His model prayer? (How many of each?)
13. What are Christians to seek first? What will be the result of such?
14. Where do hypocrites like to pray?
15. Where are Christians to lay up treasures for themselves?
16. Where are Christians to pray? (What does this mean?)
17. What request in Jesus' model prayer may we not scripturally make today? Why?
18. In the sight of God we are much better than what?
19. We are to take no thought for (not to be worried about) what? (Three things)
20. What is the result of the eye being single? Being divided?