

Our Father's Heart

Matthew 6:1-18

I. Allow me to introduce . . .

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus uses the word "Father" (instead of "God" or "Lord") seventeen times. Do you think He was trying to make a point?

II. Who are your good works for?

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:1.

"[Whatever] you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31.

III. Giving and Fasting – Matthew 6:2-4 and 6:16-18

Giving - *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Fasting - *"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please . . . Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"* Isaiah 58:3b, 5b-7.

IV. The Heart of the Matter – Matthew 6:5-15

a. Understanding our relationship with our heavenly Father

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being." Hebrews 1:3.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9.

"Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:8.

b. Our Father in heaven

"Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other." Deuteronomy 4:39.

c. The central point of the entire sermon

"[On] earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10.

d. You, You, You

A name hallowed (God making His character known), a kingdom come (God ruling everyone everywhere), a will done (God carrying out His purpose), all on earth as it is in heaven.

e. Us, us, us

Bread (God taking care of our present needs), forgiveness (God taking care of our past), deliverance (God taking care of our future).

V. An Old Testament model – Genesis 24

In Mesopotamia as it is in Canaan – On earth as it is in heaven.