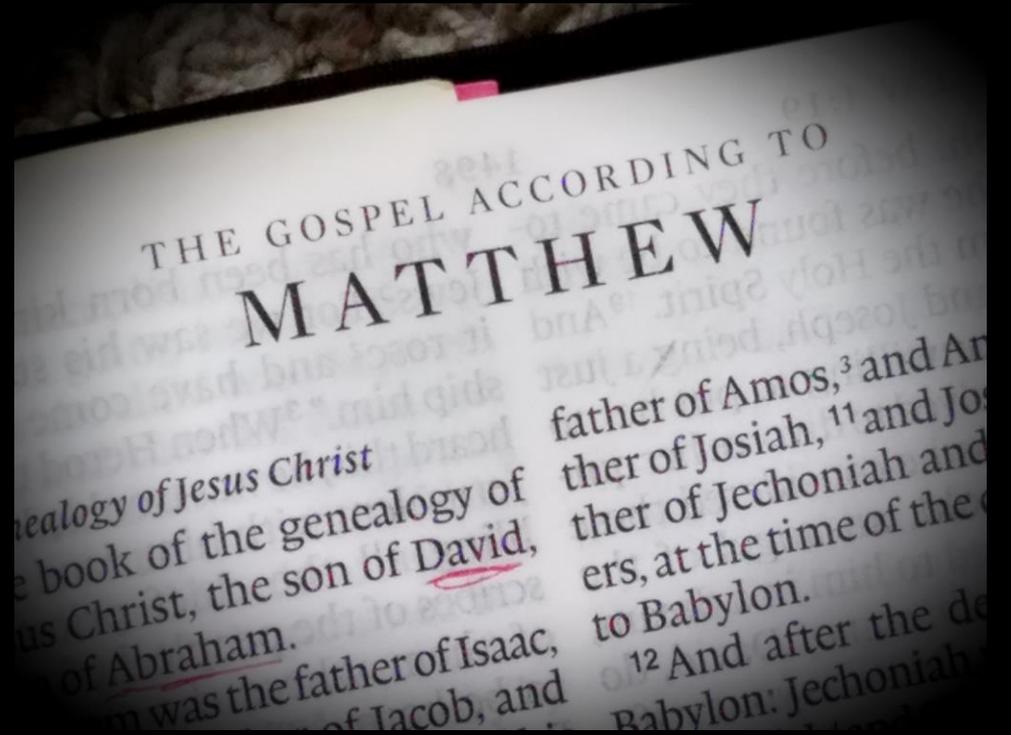


# Verse by Verse

## Matthew 6



Previously in Matthew

# Previously in Matthew

- In **Matthew 1**, we looked at the birth of Jesus.
- In **Matthew 2**, the wise men came. Jesus went from Bethlehem to Egypt then to Nazareth.
- In **Matthew 3**, John the Baptist was active. Jesus was baptized by him and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.
- In **Matthew 4**, Christ was baptized and then went into the wilderness to be tempted.
- **Matthew 5** was the first of three chapters in the Sermon on the Mount.

# Matthew 6 Introduction

# Matthew 6 Introduction

- Giving, prayer and fasting are all a part of traditionally Jewish take on spirituality.
- All of them are included here.
- What's more, Christ gives us two outcomes of these traditional practices.
- We will store up treasure in heaven and we will reduce our anxiety on earth.

# Matthew 6    Take Home Points

# Matthew 6    Take Home Points

1. Giving, prayer and fasting are all things we do mainly before God and not before other people.
2. The disease of mammon worship is treated by generosity.
3. The disease of worry is treated by fasting and prayer.

# Matthew 6    Key Verses

# Matthew 6 Key Verses

- Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

# Matthew 6 Key Verses

- Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

# Matthew 6 Outline

# Matthew 6 Outline

1. Giving 6:1-4
2. Prayer 6:5-8
3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15
4. Fasting 6:16-18
5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24
6. Do Not Worry 6:25-34

# 1. Giving 6:1-4

# 1. Giving 6:1-4

- There is always a danger in wanting to let people know how generous we are – in **blowing our own horn**.
- In churches you used to see people's names on the windows or at the ends of the pews to memorialize their giving.
- People get their names attached to buildings at colleges or other public projects in the same way.

# 1. Giving 6:1-4

- How much would people give – how much would we give – if we never received any recognition for it?
- What if we no longer got that annual tax write off?
- Give and give generously, especially to those who cannot pay you back, and let your Father in heaven reward you.

# 1. Giving 6:1-4

- Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

# 1. Giving 6:1-4

- **Take Home Point:** Giving is something we do mainly before God and not before other people.

## 2. Prayer 6:5-8

## 2. Prayer 6:5-8

- Our culture has become so secular that praying at a street corner to get noticed is not something people do.
- Maybe that is a positive result of an overall negative trend.
- Still, Jesus's lesson on prayer is similar to his lesson on giving.

## 2. Prayer 6:5-8

- Do we want to be seen by other people or heard by God?
- Maybe the lesson for us is to make sure that our private prayer times actually happen.
- When we pray with others, we can keep our prayers short, to the point and leave out the flowery language.

## 2. Prayer 6:5-8

- **Take Home Point:** Prayer is something we do mainly before God and not before other people.

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- There is a cultural parallel to this prayer in a traditional Jewish prayer called the *Kaddish*.
- This prayer, in one form or another, goes back to before the time of Christ, so he and his followers probably knew it.

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- The *Kaddish* is usually recited by mourners in memory of the dead at a daily service.
- It includes no mention of death, nor of the deceased person.
- It is really more of a *doxology*, written in Aramaic, which would have been the first language of Jesus and his friends.

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- The Mourner's Kaddish

*Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world, which He has created according to His will.*

*May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.*

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- The Mourner's Kaddish

*May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.*

*Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.*

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- The Mourner's Kaddish

*May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.*

*He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.*<sup>1</sup>

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- From both Christ's prayer and the *Kaddish* we learn that prayer is first about God and his kingdom.
- There is room for us too, though:
- We should pray for our daily needs and for forgiveness, in connection with our forgiving others.
- Finally, we should pray for help in in the face of temptation.

### 3. A Model Prayer 6:9-15

- **Take Home Point:** Prayer, once again, is something we do mainly before God and not before other people.

## 4. Fasting 6:16-18

## 4. Fasting 6:16-18

- First, Jesus says, “when you fast,” just like “when you give and “when you pray.”
- He assumes we are going to do all of these things.
- Second, his point here is just like the points for giving and prayer – that we do it before God and not other people.

## 4. Fasting 6:16-18

- Unless a group of people choose to fast together, probably no one else really needs to know.
- The same is true for giving and prayer.
- It can be encouraging to do these things together with others without it being for public display.
- Outside the loops, mixed motives can grow pretty fast.

## 4. Fasting 6:16-18

- **Take Home Point:** Giving, prayer and fasting are all things we do mainly before God and not before other people.

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

- The “key to the key verses” in this section is 6:21,
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- I think back on the day I first noticed that as a turning point in my own spiritual growth.

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

- 6:19-20 These verses can seem like our motive is to store up treasure in heaven for its own sake.
- Christ moves it a step farther in v.21, starting with “For.”
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

- 6:21 Christ wants us to have treasure in heaven, but he mainly wants our hearts.
- Our storing up treasure in heaven is the means to that end.

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

- 6:22-23 I take these verses to mainly speak against covetousness, or “the desires of the eyes” (1 John 2:16).
- 6:24 This verse pulls the whole section beginning with 6:19 together into one main message.
- We might be able to serve two bosses by working two jobs, but they are not exactly “masters.”

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

- 6:24 The last word “money,” is *mammon*, which points more accurately to all one’s possessions.
- *Generosity*, like that Jesus asks for in the first section, is good medicine to fight against mammon worship.

## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

*Of course, many people do try to cherish both God and mammon, but ultimately only one will be chosen. The other will be “hated,” even if only by neglect. “Love” and “hate” in Semitic thought are often roughly equivalent to choose and not choose.<sup>2</sup>*

– Craig Blomberg, Denver Seminary



## 5. Treasure in Heaven 6:19-24

- **Take Home Point:** The disease of mammon worship is treated by generosity.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- Jesus tells us to begin by looking at nature.
- God's creation is marked by three fascinating things:
  1. **Beauty** – No need to elaborate.
  2. **Interdependence** – Everything depends on everything else.
  3. **Intentionality** – God does not act in random ways.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- Jesus then would have us look at ourselves.
  1. God has made us in his image. We are his representatives.
  2. We are stewards over his creation. He cares for all of his creation, but he cares for us most of all.
  3. Through Christ we are a part of God's family. Our heavenly Father knows what we need and is totally dependable.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- When we see the beautiful, intentional interdependence of God's creation, it reminds not to rely only upon ourselves.
- We need to trust him first in all that we do.
- Seek his kingdom, seek his will, seek him most of all.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- We can take 6:33 as the *Key Verse* in this whole chapter.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- **Take Home Point:** The disease of mammon worship is treated by generosity.
- **Take Home Point:** The disease of worry is treated by fasting and prayer.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- Proverbs 3:5-10 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones.

## 6. Worry 6:25-34

- Proverbs 3:5-10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;  
<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

# Matthew 6    What We Just Read

# Matthew 6    What We Just Read

1. Giving                    6:1-4
2. Prayer                    6:5-8
3. A Model Prayer        6:9-15
4. Fasting                   6:16-18
5. Treasure in Heaven    6:19-24
6. Do Not Worry         6:25-34

# Matthew 6    What We Just Learned

# Matthew 6    What We Just Learned

1. Giving, prayer and fasting are all things we do mainly before God and not before other people.
2. The disease of mammon worship is treated by generosity.
3. The disease of worry is treated by fasting and prayer.

# Matthew 6    Key Verses

# Matthew 6 Key Verses

- Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

# Matthew 6    Key Verses

- Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

# Christ's Model Prayer   Matthew 6:9-13

# Christ's Model Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

# References

1. (English translation from My Jewish Learning, <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/text-of-the-mourners-kaddish/> )
2. Blomberg, Craig L.. *Matthew: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture* (The New American Commentary). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition, 124.