

## Sermon on the Mount Matthew 6

Summary: A secret life with the Father creates a public life of integrity, peace and freedom.

Emphasis: The kingdom of God is an inside-out kingdom. Our secret, inner relay with God determines our outward walk of faith and love.

Key verse: Matthew 6:33 ESV

Contrast: The hypocrite vs the true son

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Jesus assumes we will *practice* righteousness, not talk about it. Here, Jesus is discussing practical righteousness, not our righteousness in Christ by faith (justification)

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There is a reward for justice and righteousness (Hebrews 6:10 )

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*Hypocrite*==an actor; one of Jesus's favorite terms for those who are religious outwardly, yet are not lovers of God from the heart

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Prayer

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Jesus would withdraw to deserted places to pray. This was His lifestyle and constant practice. (Luke 5:16).

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*Your Father **is** in secret*—this is where He lives and where He wants to host you

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Types of praying:

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“The Lord’s Prayer”

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*As we forgive our debtors*—We ask to be forgiven in the very same way we forgive others.

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*Lead us not **into** temptation*—We will be tempted as Jesus was, but prayer keeps us from entering into it (Matthew 26:41)

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Fasting

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Andrew Murray: “Prayer and fasting are two hands. With fasting, we let go of the visible. With prayer, we grab hold of the invisible.”

Jesus calls us to a lifestyle of prayer and fasting. This lifestyle yields spiritual power and authority (Mark 9:28-29 KJV)

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Fasting humbles the soul (Psalm 69:10)

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Jim Elliot: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Where we invest our money, we invest our heart. Our hearts are tethered to our resources.

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*Good eye*—Hebrew figure of speech for "generous." Can also be translated as *single eye*—not double minded, fixed on God as treasure, yielding generosity and grace.

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*Evil eye*—Hebrew figure of speech for "stingy," "greedy."

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*Serve money or Mammon*—Mammon is worldly wealth, the great goal and idol of the children of this age

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Do not be anxious

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Two examples: birds and lilies

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Anxiety is a form of control, trying to be God by managing every possible outcome

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*Seek first*—We must plan for tomorrow—administration and attention to detail are good; that is not what Jesus is forbidding

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We have cares, but we must entrust them to the Lord in prayer before they can morph into worries. (1 Pet. 5:6-7, Phil. 4:6-7)

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Don't add tomorrow's troubles to today's

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