

Living in the Kingdom of God

Jesus' main point in the Sermon on the Mount is the *present availability* of the Kingdom of the Heavens. We can live under the reign of God, as apprentices of Jesus in the Kingdom of God ...now! Our righteousness (inner goodness) will be expressed in actions that flow from a pure heart. Let's consider these actions "*When the Kingdom Comes.*"

- **Day One - Read Matthew 6:2-4**

Why is secret giving important? How does giving privately safeguard our motives? What are the dangers of secret giving? Must it always be "secret?"

Pray – Ask God to help you in the stewardship of all your resources, that you would be humble, faithful and generous.

- **Day Two - Read Matthew 6:5-15**

Why is it so important to be "real" in our prayers, and remember the one to whom we're speaking? What are the challenges to praying "public" prayers?

How does praying in "the secret place" protect us from weird motives? Why is praying alone often difficult?

Pray – Ask God to help you learn to pray more regularly and more effectively.

- **Day Three - Read Matthew 6:16-18**

Why do you think fasting has been so neglected as a spiritual discipline in the contemporary church? Why is it always linked with prayer in Scripture? How can fasting help us in our prayer life? Check out our resources on our website to help you grow in the spiritual disciplines (www.newlifepismo.com - then *resources – documents – spiritual disciplines.*)

Pray – Ask God to help you grow in all the spiritual disciplines and especially in the discipline of prayer and fasting.

New Life Lessons
June 23rd & 24th, 2012
Pastor Ron Salsbury

"The Power of a Secret Life"

The Sermon on the Mount #5

Matthew 6:1-18

Matthew 6:1, 6 (NLT) ¹ "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ⁶(NKJV) 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.

"Doing Good vs. Becoming Good"

Goodness (*dikaiousune*) in "Real Life"

- **Anger & Contempt** (vs. 21-26)
- **Lust & Adultery** (vs. 27-30)
- **Marriage & Commitment** (vs. 31-32)
- **Trust & Truthfulness** (vs. 33-37)
- **Revenge & Payback** (vs. 38-42)
An "eye for an eye" vs. Don't harm but help
- **Enemies & Hatred** (43-47)
Hate your enemy vs. Love and bless your enemy "Turning the other cheek" is NOT about the enablement of abuse, it is continuing the relationship. Matthew 5:48 being "perfect"

The Power of a Secret Life.

Matthew 13:44; Colossians 2:2b-3

John 5:44 (NLT) ⁴⁴ No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about **the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.**
doxa – "the glory of His presence." Psalm 16:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Matthew 6:1 (NIV) ¹ "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 23:5-6 (NLT) ⁵ "Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear **extra wide prayer boxes** with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with **extra long tassels**.
⁶ And **they love to sit at the head table** at banquets and in **the seats of honor in the synagogues**.

Luke 16:14-15, John 5:44; Matthew 5:16 "see your good deeds"?

ophthalmouolia - "Eye Service" ("a slave to being seen")
Colossians 3:22; Ephesians 6:6

Doing Our Acts of Righteousness

1. Giving to Bless, not Impress .

Matthew 6:2-4 ² When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. Luke 21:1-4 *The Poor Widow's offering*

³ But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. Revelation 22:12; Matthew 25:21, 34-36; Colossians 3:23-24; Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV) ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Matthew 6:4b (NIV) ^{4b} Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Ephesians 5:10

2. Praying to Know , not Get .

Matthew 6:5-6 ⁵ "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. Vs. 7-8

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) 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.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT) ¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17, 21-22; Ephesians 4:26-27

3. Fasting to Gain , not Lose .

Matthew 6:16-18 (NLT) ¹⁶ "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get.

¹⁷ But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸ Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Matthew 4:4 (NIV) ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Deuteronomy 8:3; John 4:31-34

John 6:51a (NIV) ^{51a} I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.