The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6 – Part 3 Lesson #14

- I. Introduction
 - A. Chapter 6 deals with "whom do you want to please?" in four areas of spiritual discipline.
 - 1. Giving (6:2-4)
 - 2. Praying (6:5-15)
 - 3. Fasting (6:16-18)
 - 4. Wealth (6:19-34)
 - B. Chapter 6 deals with principles of true worship
- II. Our Fasting (6:16-18)
 - A. What began as spiritual self-discipline was prostituted into an occasion for pompous self-righteousness.
 - B. No voluntary act of spiritual discipline is ever to become an occasion for self- promotion.
 - C. Hypocrisy robs us of reality in Christian living
 - 1. We substitute reputation for character
 - 2. Mere words for true prayer
 - 3. Money for devotion of the heart
 - D. Hypocrisy robs us of spiritual rewards
 - 1. Instead of eternal approval of God, we receive the shallow praise of men
 - 2. We pray but there are not answers
 - 3. We fast but the inner man shows no improvement
 - E. Hypocrisy robs us of our spiritual influence
 - 1. When reputation becomes more important than character, we loose our influence
 - 2. Whom am I trying to please by my spiritual practices?
 - F. Overcoming hypocrisy
 - 1. Be honest with God in our secret life

- 2. Cultivate the heart in the secret place
- 3. The most important part of our life is the part that only God sees.
- III. Our Use of Wealth (6:19-34)
 - A. We are used to dividing life into the "spiritual" and the "material."
 - 1. Jesus made no such division
 - 2. Jesus made it clear that a right attitude about wealth is a mark of true spirituality.
 - a. Luke 12:13
 - b. Luke 16:1-31
 - 3. It is not wrong to possess things but it is wrong for things to possess us.
 - B. Consequences of a wrong value system (covetousness and idolatry)
 - 1. Enslavement (19-24)
 - 2. Devaluation (25-30)
 - 3. Loss of influence (31-33)
 - 4. Loss of joy (v.34)
 - a. Faith (6:30)
 - b. Father (6:32)
 - c. First (6:33)