

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

