

Great Chapters of the Bible - Lesson #18 - Matthew 6

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

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I. Introduction

A. Chapter 6 deals with religious hypocrisy

1. Jesus concluded chapter 5 demanding perfection (5:48)
2. Therefore, He warns about the heart's propensity for self-deception (6:1)
3. Be perfect (5:48) but be careful (6:1)

B. The Beatitudes deal with "whose blessing do you want?"

C. Chapter 6 deals with "whom do you want to please?"

1. Demands of righteousness can never be confused with external piety (holiness)
2. All acts of righteousness must be preserved from showmanship
3. Four fundamental acts of personal holiness
 - a. Giving (6:2-4)
 - b. Praying (6:5-15)
 - c. Fasting (6:16-18)
 - d. Wealth (6:19-34)
4. Jesus uses these as examples of all other acts of righteousness by:
 - a. Giving a description and denunciation of the act
 - b. Giving and affirmation of the limited results
 - c. Giving a contrasting description of true holiness and its results

D. The section goes all the way to Chapter 7:12

1. The believer and worship (6:1-18) – relationship to God
2. The believer and wealth (6:19-34) – relationship to the world
3. The believer and his/her walk (7:1-12) – relationship to people

II. The Believer and Worship (6:1-18)

A. Our Giving (6:1-4)

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1. Aims = acts of righteousness
2. The issue is the manner and motive of giving
 - a. The Pharisees liked to advertise their giving – Mark 12:38-40
 - b. Annanias and Sapphira used their giving so people would think they were more spiritual than others – Acts 5:1-11
3. Hypocrisy has several forms
 - a. The person uses goodness but it is actually evil; they know they are being deceptive
 - b. The person is puffed up with his own self-importance and is blind to his own faults but is harsh toward others and their sin
 - c. The person talks himself or herself into believing that they are conducting themselves with the best interests of the needy
 - i. The needy won't complain but will congratulate and contribute to one's self-delusion
 - ii. It's play-acting motivated by a sense of egoism "to be honored by men"
 - iii. They get what they want but that is all they get
4. Manner is secret; motive is to please God
 - a. Good verses good-bad work
 - i. Done by faith
 - ii. Consistent with the Scripture
 - iii. Done with the right motive
 - b. Give secretly to protect ourselves from ostentatious pseudo-piety
 - c. Interested in rewards and blessings of God but not the approval of people
 - i. Not giving secretly in order to win some heavenly reward
 - ii. Rather giving secretly to avoid the glamour or honor of people but to meet a real need
5. Our goal is perfection (5:48)

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- a. Don't delude yourself into thinking all giving is an act of righteousness
- b. Not all giving pleases God
- c. The human heart is too deceptive to allow so simple a suggestion to stand