

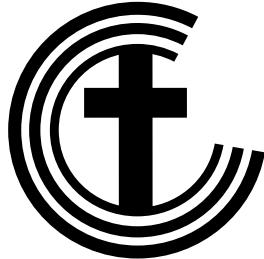
I. Observation

Read Matthew 6:1-4 (Charitable Deeds)

1. What instructions does Jesus give about charitable deeds?
2. What is the reason for these instructions?
3. What is the outcome of doing charitable deeds in secret?

Read Matthew 6:5-15 (Prayer)

1. How does Jesus describe the wrong way to pray?
2. What are the characteristics of the prayer Jesus advocates?
3. What model prayer does Jesus provide?
4. What does Jesus say about forgiveness in prayer?



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Read Matthew 6:16-18 (Fasting)

1. How should fasting be conducted according to Jesus?
2. What should be avoided while fasting?

Read Matthew 6:19-21 (Treasures in Heaven)

1. What contrast does Jesus make regarding earthly and heavenly treasures?
2. Where does Jesus direct us to lay up our treasures?
3. What is the relationship between treasure and heart?

Read Matthew 6:22-24 (The Lamp of the Body)

1. What metaphor does Jesus use for the eye?
2. What is the consequence of having a “good” or “bad” eye?
3. What does Jesus say about serving two masters?



Read Matthew 6:25-34 (Do Not Worry)

1. What does Jesus say about worrying over life's necessities?
2. How does Jesus illustrate God's provision using nature?
3. What is the primary focus Jesus advises?

II. Interpretation

Charitable Deeds (Matthew 6:1-4)

1. Why does Jesus emphasize secrecy in charitable deeds?
2. How does seeking God's recognition change the way we give?



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Cross References:

- 1 Samuel 2:2: What can we learn from Hannah's sincere approach to God?
- James 5:2-3: How does the temporary nature of earthly wealth relate to Jesus' teaching on charitable deeds?

Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)

1. Why is public approval in prayer discouraged?
2. How does the Lord's Prayer encompass elements of a worthy prayer life?

Cross References:

- Luke 11:1-4: How does this passage about the Lord's Prayer parallel Matthew 6?
- James 5:16-17: What is the impact of fervent prayer according to James?



Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)

1. What is the purpose behind making fasting a private matter?
2. How does proper fasting reflect one's heart attitude toward God and self?

Cross References:

- 2 Chronicles 20:3: How did Jehoshaphat's fast reflect his dependence on God?
- Isaiah 58:3-7: What kind of fasting is pleasing to God?

Treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)

1. How does Jesus redefine wealth and treasure?
2. What implications does this teaching have on values and priorities?



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Cross References:

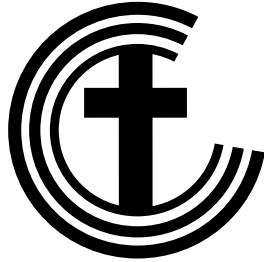
- James 5:2-3: How does the corrosion of earthly treasures act as a witness against misplaced priorities?
- Colossians 3:1-2: How are we advised to seek and set our minds on heavenly things?

The Lamp of the Body (Matthew 6:22-24)

1. How do good and bad eyes represent moral and spiritual vision?
2. Why is it impossible to serve two masters?

Cross References:

- Luke 11:34-36: How do these verses on the eye being the lamp deepen our understanding of Jesus' words?
- Luke 16:13: What does this passage add to our understanding of serving God versus wealth?

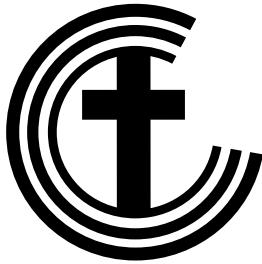


Do Not Worry (Matthew 6:25-34)

1. How does Jesus argue against worry using nature and God's provision?
2. What priorities does Jesus highlight for a worry-free life?

Cross References:

- Luke 12:22-34: How does Jesus' teaching on worry in Luke compare to Matthew 6?
- Philippians 4:6-7: What practical advice on dealing with anxiety does Paul give?



III. Application

Charitable Deeds

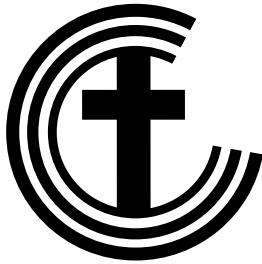
- Reflect on your motives for giving. Are they more in line with seeking human recognition or God's approval? Determine practical ways to shift towards the latter.

Prayer

- Evaluate your prayer life. How can you incorporate the elements of the Lord's Prayer in your daily practice? Commit to a specific time and place for secret prayer this week.

Fasting

- Consider a specific area in your life where you need to depend more on God. Plan a fast where you substitute that activity or food with focused time with God.



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Treasures in Heaven

- Assess where you are laying up your treasures. How can you shift your focus from earthly possessions to heavenly values? Set a concrete goal to steward your resources for God's kingdom.

The Lamp of the Body

- Analyze your spiritual vision. Are there areas where your desires need realignment with God's light? Take steps to remove sources of "darkness" from your life.

Do Not Worry

- Identify specific worries and anxieties you struggle with. How can you turn these worries into prayers and trust in God's provision? Practice trusting God with one area of worry this week.



IV. Closing and Reflection

Reflection Questions:

1. What new insights did you gain from studying Matthew 6?
2. How will you apply one specific teaching from this chapter in your life this week?
3. In what ways can you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in your daily decisions?

V. Group Discussion (Optional for Study Groups)

1. Share your reflections on charitable deeds. What changes do you feel prompted to make?
2. Discuss your experiences with prayer and fasting. How can you support each other in these disciplines?



3. Explore the concepts of earthly versus heavenly treasures. How does this impact your understanding of stewardship?
4. Talk about anxiety and trust. What practical steps can you take as a group to encourage each other in faith over fear?

Conclusion

Utilizing the inductive Bible study method, we have delved into observing, interpreting, and applying Matthew 6. Reflect on these insights and let the Holy Spirit transform your walk with God, as He ensuring that your life aligns more closely with His will as revealed through His Word.