

## A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 6 v. 1-8

- **Matthew Chapter 6 begins with a repeated theme we have discussed previously; focusing on the intent of our actions, specifically actions meant to be righteous. (v. 1-4)**
  - This passage begins with the words “take heed” or “beware”.  
What is Christ trying to warn the people about here? (v. 1)
    - A continued theme from early on in the sermon, Jesus is warning people about the heart in which they do deeds. Is Jesus calling us to inaction here? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Are all actions we do in front of people automatically for our own glory? \_\_\_\_\_
      - If the actions we take are meant to glorify God, and if people who notice them give God the glory as well, then our work is done for Him. (Matthew 5:16)
    - Colossians 3:23-24 gives a great example of the way we are called to take action.
  - Continuing forward, Jesus gives a prime example of how NOT to go about doing good or righteous things. (v. 2)
    - Jesus mentions here that hypocrites bring attention to themselves when doing these “righteous” deeds.  
What does that look like in our modern day?
      - In a world of social media, there is a fine line between doing/posting things for attention, or posting to reach others for the Lord. As is the focus here, it is our heart’s motives that matter.
    - A prime example of the wrong way to go about things is shown in Matthew 23:5.
  - Contrary to the outspoken and self-centered methods of the hypocrites and Pharisees, Jesus calls us to do our deeds in secret. (v. 3-4)
    - Verses 3 and 4 are used to truly emphasize where our hearts should be when doing good deeds. Jesus does not expect us to literally go out of our way to do things secretly, but He does want our minds and hearts to be far away from being self-centered when doing works for Him.
    - Is there anything we can do that God does not know about? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Jesus takes this point of doing things with the right heart and takes it beyond just our actions, but also in the way that we pray. (v. 5-8)**
  - Jesus once again starts this passage by talking about the behavior of hypocrites, and says by praying in the synagogues and streets they have received their award. (v.5)
    - Why would these men be praying there? \_\_\_\_\_

- What reward do they receive for praying publicly? \_\_\_\_\_
- What reward is it that the RIGHTEOUS seek when praying? \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus then calls us to pray in secret. (v. 6) Why would He do this? \_\_\_\_\_
  - When we pray in private, we not only are able to properly ask for what we need, but we are also to keep our focus solely on God.
    - When we pray in this way, we are promised that God will repay us. Does this mean we will get everything we ask/pray for?  
Read 1 John 5:14-15
  - When we pray in this way, that is, in accordance with God’s will, He will hear us and answer our prayers. The righteous person receives what they pray for because what they seek is IN God’s will.
- Jesus then goes on to tell the people not to use “vain repetitions”. (v. 7) What are ways that we can fall into the trap of making this mistake? \_\_\_\_\_
  - As with all things, it is our hearts that determine what is vain and what is spoken with intent. If we pray for someone’s healing just for the sake of praying, it is vain. If we pray with intent and belief in God, then He hears us.
- Jesus goes a step further in the reasoning for avoiding this habit; because God knows what we need before we even ask. (v. 8)
  - If God knows what we want before we ask him, then why do we pray?
    - Read Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 5:14-15; 1 Peter 5:6-7.
  - We pray to God because we are called to do so, because He promises to hear us, and because it acts as a comfort to us.
  - This isn’t only proved through God’s words, but His actions as well.
    - God answered Elijah’s prayer when faced by the prophets of Baal, He answered Hannah’s prayer for a son, He answered Paul and Silas prayers to be freed from prison, and answers our prayers today.