

The Lord Knows

Matthew 6:1-18

Okay, welcome back and here we go! Today we start Chapter 6. And what's interesting is it is the opposite of Chapter 5! Chapter 5 teaches us to openly display our works. Do not resist, give if asked, etc... But in Chapter 6, He says the opposite!

Matthew 6:1-18

- 1) What are charitable deeds?

We often think of the kind things we do for those who cannot repay, but it goes deeper: charity, love, charitable things done because I love.....

But the question is, what do I love? Do I love God? Do I love you or do I love approbation? Our block of scriptures is very clear. When you do charitable deeds, pray, forgive and fast. Do it out of love, not for recognition!

- 2) What is the difference and how do you know when to talk and when to not?

I do things daily for people, lots of people. Some I talk about. Some I don't. Friday service is one thing. I openly say I serve all day Friday as an example to everyone else. Finding the right balance can be tricky. If you are not sure, I would say keep quiet.

- 3) How does God reward us openly?

What is funny is when God is rewarding us, it is not really that secretive. It is open and obvious. We have peace. We have mental, emotional and spiritual prosperity.

Matthew 6:5-8

If charitable deeds are outward signs, prayer can be an inward sign of our love and trust in God. If our prayers are on display they are also outward.

- 4) Is this teaching that we should not pray out loud or in front of others?

Prayer should always be a matter of the heart, whether in the open or in secret. I have often spoke openly about healing prayers and my absolute belief in God's miracles through prayer. Is this wrong? I don't believe so. I believe miracles are meant to be seen as signs and must be shared; not always, but usually. Jesus always said "these signs are that you might believe".

5) So then, what are these secret prayers?

Do you have prayers today? Secret prayers. I hope so. Prayers that are intense, personal, faith-filled, intentional.

The real thrust here in verses 1-8 -- to me is verse 8.

Matthew 6:8 *"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

6) Explain what this means.

We do a lot of things in front of people or we tell them about it for various reasons. One big reason is we find our value in the acceptance of others. If everyone likes me I have value. So my value then comes from what I can do or provide. A system of works. But more importantly, it shows a lack of faith.

Truly God knows what you need even when you do not!

- Does God love you?
- Does God know your needs?
- Can God provide?
- Will He provide?
- Can I rest in my faith while waiting?
- Is God going to destroy you?

Faith-rest is key to personal peace..... believing and knowing God cares and will act!

7) (Personal) What is it you need? Do you trust God to provide?

Let's pray a secret prayer so God can reward us openly!