

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03.....The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01..... The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December..... Matthew 02..... The Magi
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04..... The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016..... Matthew 05a..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January.....Matthew 06..... Common Sense Behavior**
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05b..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10..... More Miracles
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February..... Matthew 13..... More Parables

INTRODUCTION

- This chapter deals with common sense behavior from attitudes on doing good works, to praying and fasting, to living a worry-free life

Passage	Comments
6:16-18	<p>Secret Fasting Yields Spiritual Breakthroughs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God enjoys rewarding those who humble themselves • Are all rewards received in this lifetime? • Would you rather have temporary rewards that lasts just for this lifetime, or rewards that last all eternity? • Stay heavenly-focused.....John 6:27; James 4:6
6:19-24	<p>More Common Sense Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv19-21. Are we more concerned about our 401K and our next vacation or supporting our missionaries? • vv22-23. Where do our eyes wonder? Are they fixed straight ahead (Prov 4:25) and disciplined (Job 31:1)?
6:25-34	<p>The Key to A Worry-Free Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are commanded "DO NOT WORRY" so it begins with a decision we need to make • BUT worry must be replaced with something → We must realize God is in control when we are obedient • Psalms 119:164 <i>Those who love Your word have great peace, and nothing causes them to worry or stumble</i>

Passage	Comments
Matthew 6:1-4	<p>Beware of our Good Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have a contradiction? In Mat 5:16 we are told to let our light shine so men may see our good works, YET in Mat 6:1-2 we are told to basically hide our good works. How do we reconcile this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. In Matthew 6:1 we are to "BEWARE" of something. We are to let men see are good works in such a way that it brings glory to God and not personal glory. Is it <input type="checkbox"/> "Look at me and how good I am"; or Is it <input type="checkbox"/> "Look at God and how great He is"?
6:5-8 6:32	<p>Praying Intelligently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since God knows what we need before we ask, why pray? Or should our prayers be more confession and praise and less "give me this and give me that"? • Recall Ecclesiastes 5:2 "Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few."
6:9-13	<p>The Model Prayer – Praying for the Important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Notice that Praise has priority in this model prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v10. Next, we seek involvement in God's will ♦ v11. Then, we can ask for the obvious, daily needs ♦ v12. Confessions and Forgiveness are also crucial ♦ v13. Finally, asked to be kept from being tempted (Take nothing for granted. We all have weaknesses) • The element of time. Even this model prayer reflects an element of time. We have the privilege to ask for daily bread, but that bread will not materialize out of thin air as it did when Jesus fed the crowds of 5,000 and 4,000 men, but from providence, and providence involves the element of time.
It is OK to Pray for the Obvious	<p>Zechariah 10:1 Ask rain from the LORD at the time of the spring rain (IOW pray for rain during the rainy season) Yes, God knows what we need before we ask, and yet, we are still to ask for the obvious, NOT plead</p>
6:14-15	<p>Forgiveness – Key to Getting Prayers Answered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If people ask for our forgiveness and we withhold forgiveness, our prayers will be frozen till we forgive • When is it appropriate not to forgive? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. If someone doesn't ask or want our forgiveness, then we are not obligated to forgive. Which thief on the cross did Jesus not forgive? ♦ Do you forgive a child molester who asks for forgiveness and let them work again in the nursery?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Our Christian walk is more about ATTITUDE than performance
- Would God rather see us sit on the bench and not be in the game or for us to be in the game with wrong motives or bad attitude ("woe is me" or "look at me")?
 - ♦ Answer: God would rather have us on the bench doing nothing
 - ♦ Consider [Malachi 1:10](#) "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts"
 - ♦ **God is basically saying if we come to worship or to do any work for Him without having the right spirit or attitude, He would rather see the church closed and us sitting at home watching TV.**
- If we first have the right attitude (humility directed toward doing things God's ways) then the works we do for God and our fellow man will have far reaching impacts now and for all eternity

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 05:21-48. We go back to wrap up Chapter 5 with looking at personal relationships from Christ's perspective

