



The King and His Kingdom *Matthew 6*

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Chapters 5-7)

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” Matt. 6:1 ESV

“BEWARE” - (Greek) To set a course and keep it; to be constantly attentive and to strive continuously.

Seeking the praise of men, when praise belongs to God, is the action of hypocrites and “Gentiles.”

Jesus advised: Conduct your righteous acts in secret and avoid the temptation to seek human recognition.

Three examples from Jewish piety:

- Give secretly (v. 2-4)
- Pray privately (v. 5-8)
- Fast cheerfully (v. 16-18)

The disciple's reward is membership in the Kingdom of Heaven, the reign of God over one's life. “Reward” is not something that has been earned by the disciple, but that which is freely given by God through in grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. Pious support of one's neighbor, Godly prayer and cheerful fasting are the examples of the evidence of the reign of God in the disciple's life.

(As a reference, see Matthew 25, Jesus' teaching on the reward awaiting those whose lives reflect His reign in them.)

The Lord's Prayer

What Luther said about the Lord's Prayer, “God takes the initiative and puts into our mouths the very words and *approach* we are to use. In this way we see how deeply concerned he is about our needs, and we should never doubt that such prayer pleases him and will assuredly be heard.”

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Father in heaven, *(Who reigns in power over all things.)*
May your name be holy everywhere. *(May I not dishonor your name and may all others do likewise.)*

May your kingdom come. *(May your kingdom come among us, now and in eternity.)*

May your will come about on earth as it is in heaven.
(May your will be the ONLY will that prevails on earth.)

Give us today our daily bread. *(Provide all that is needed to support my life: food, shelter, gov't, etc., according to my needs.)*

Forgive our sins as we forgive others. *(Recognize and accept His forgiveness and demonstrate it to others.)*

Lead us not into temptation. *(As the prince of this earthly realm of disobedience does to us.)*

But deliver us from evil [the evil one]. *(Christ gives us the victory in our daily battle with the devil, the world and our sinful flesh. God rescues us unto himself.)*

Walking in Matthew's Sandals

Further study:

Jesus explained the correct way to practice spiritual disciplines through three examples: giving aid to those in need, prayer and fasting. How does each of these disciplines contribute to “laying up treasures in heaven” (v. 19-24)?

Verses 25-34 can be seen as practical application of the Lord's Prayer. Discuss how these verses reflect God's reply to each of the Prayer's petitions. What are the implications for our tendency to worry about little things? Focus on v. 33.

For next time, read and reread Matthew 7 and 8.