

# Matthew 6:1-18 Attitude in Worship: Your Father Sees

## MATT 6:1-4 WORSHIP IN RELATION TO MEN - ALMS

**v1 Do not your alms before men:** Alms are acts of love, particularly giving to the poor: **Acts 10:4,30; 2 Cor 9:6-10.** Human nature seeks recognition. Social media today feeds on this evil. We need to be discreet when we help others. Jesus condemns those who love the praises of men: **Jn 12:43. Otherwise ye have no reward of your Father:** God is continually described as a **Father** here: **6:1,2,6,6,8,9,14,15, 18,18,26,32.** Our true motivation is therefore to please Him as a Father. In **Mt 5:16** Jesus says it is good that our light shines, but only so *our Father* is glorified. Right motives lead to right character. They also lead to a satisfying God centred life.

**v2 Do not sound a trumpet:** Trumpets were blown at the time of offering sacrifices to God: **Num 10:10; Psa 81:2-3.** Edersheim says there were offering boxes shaped like a trumpet, so the coins would make a loud noise as they went in. **Hypocrites:** Literally a *stage player* with a mask in a play. **That they may have glory of men:** This glory is fleeting: **Jn 5:44. They have their reward:** Not just the Pharisees but all those who seek their own glory rather than that of God. We can all fall into this trap easily because it is characteristic of human nature. In the last days *“men shall be lovers of their own selves”*: **2 Tim 3:2.** Today's reward is what the world strives for.

**v3 Let not thy left hand know:** A wonderful example is in **Mt 25:37** where believers answer Jesus Christ at the judgment seat, *“When did we see you hungry and feed you?”*

**v4 Thy Father which seeth in secret:** God is aware of us at all times: **Heb 4:13.** God will remember these things in the day of judgment: **2 Cor 5:10. Himself shall reward thee:** Most translations remove the word “openly”. The emphasis is not on *how* the reward is given but rather on *the giver*. It gives God joy to give good gifts to those that love Him: **Mt 7:11; Jas 1:17.**

## MATT 6:5-8 WORSHIP IN RELATION TO GOD - PRAYER

**v5 They have their reward:** Same sentiments as **6:2.** Such outward show of spirituality is fake and ultimately unsatisfying.

**v6 Enter into thy closet:** Elisha prayed like this when raising the Shunammite's son: **2 Kgs 4:31-38.** Gehazi's earlier prayer was not heard as he was one who sought present reward: **2 Kgs 5:20-27.** Jesus constantly prayed to his Father in solitude because he needed strength: **Mk 1:35; Mt 14:23.** Our attitude in prayer is very important: **Jn 4:21. Shut thy door:** Remove distractions and focus on God. An important lesson for us today when there are so many distractions. **Pray to thy Father which is in secret:** **Psa 91:1** *“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”* **Thy Father shall reward thee openly:** Faith involves belief that God is a rewarder: **Heb 11:6.** However the reward is incidental to our service of love and appreciation: **Gal 2:20.**

**Colour code:** Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for 2015 New Zealand Youth Conference. Acknowledgments: NZYC15 notes, Matt 5-7 notes by Jim Luke, talks by Carl Parry and Jona Lawson. For a pdf file email [acdangerfield@webshield.net.au](mailto:acdangerfield@webshield.net.au).

**T**AKE heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

**2** Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

**3** But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

**4** That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

**5** ¶ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

**6** But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

**7** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that



**v7 Use not vain repetitions:** It was Elijah who made this point on Mt Carmel: **1 Kgs 18:26-29.** Similarly the crowd repeatedly praised Diana of the Ephesians: **Acts 19:34.** Those who have heard “talking in tongues” at Pentecostal meetings will appreciate these words. Christ sometimes prayed for extended periods, but not vain repetitions: **Mt 26:36-44; Lk 6:12; 18:1.**

**Think they shall be heard for much speaking:** Jesus said *“for a show they make long prayers”*: **Mk 12:40.** God is in heaven and we are on earth, therefore our words should be few: **Eccl 5:2. v8 Be not ye like unto them:** Ironic words. Pharisees thanked God they were not like others: **Lk 18:11.**

**Your Father knoweth what things ye have need:** A parent may know a child's needs, but is pleased when they faithfully request with a humble and thankful heart: **Phil 4:5-6.** God seeks for us to have a relationship with Him: **Psa 103:13.** This comes from reading and prayer: **Psa 119:103-108.** Prayer is also for our benefit. It gives us peace and a release from anxiety, knowing that God is listening: **Num 6:26; 1 Sam 1:18; Psa 118:6; 119:164-165.**

## MATT 6:9-15 THE LORD'S PRAYER

**v9 After this manner therefore pray:** This is a model prayer, expressing the main subjects to remember. **Our Father which art in heaven:** Firstly we are to remember our position before Him: **Eccl 5:2; Isa 57:15. Hallowed be thy Name:** We acknowledge the holiness of God's Name *Yahweh* which involves His plan, purpose and character: **Ex 33:13-20; 34:5-7; Psa 103:1-18; Zech 14:9.** An expression of our desire to become *Yahweh Elohim*, ie. *He who will be mighty ones*. The *Yahweh* Name particularly expresses that **God is a Father**, as emphasised constantly in this chapter. A father cares, loves, nurtures, protects: **Isa 40:11; Mt 18:3-14; Gal 4:19.** This is how *Yahweh* is described in **Isa 49:15** and **Hos 11:3.** In the OT God is called “Father” only 3 times: **Deut 32:6; Isa 63:16; 64:8.** In the NT however, this is emphasised *“because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father”* **Gal 4:4-6.** Consider **Mt 6:26,30,32; 7:11.**

they shall be heard for their much speaking.

**8** Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

**9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

**10** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us this day our daily bread.

**12** And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

**14** For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

**15** But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**16** ¶ Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

**17** But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

**18** That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

**Amen:** Faithful and true. Our agreement with the whole prayer.

**v14 If ye forgive not men their trespasses:** These are sins committed against others: **Lev 6:2,4.** Forgiveness must be from our heart: **Mt 18:35.** Christ is our trespass offering: **Isa 53:9-10.**

## MATT 6:16-18 WORSHIP IN RELATION TO SELF - FASTING

**v16 When ye fast:** To cleanse mind and body: **Lev 23:27; Psa 35:13; Dan 10:1-3; Mt 4:2; Acts 13:2-3. v17 Anoint head, wash face:** Symbolic of the Word purifying us. David did this in humble repentance: **2 Sam 12:20-23. v18 Gal 6:3** *“If a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”*



**v10 Thy kingdom come:** An expression of our earnest desire for His Kingdom: **Mt 6:33; 12:34.** This can only be a reality if we have a clear vision of that Kingdom: **Psa 22:26-31; Prov 29:18. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven:** God's will is directly opposite to man's will: **1 Pet 4:2-3.** God's angels delight to do His will: **Psa 103:19-22.** It was for God's pleasure and glory that He created man: **Rev 4:11.**

**v11 Give us this day our daily bread:** We acknowledge our daily dependence on God. We ask for the basics: **Prov 30:8.**

**v12 Forgive us our debts, as we forgive:** God's grace is conditional on our repentance and forgiveness of others: **Prov 28:13-14; Mt 18:23-35; Jas 2:13; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13; 1 Jn 1:8-10.** The year of release cancelled debts: **Deut 15:1-12.**

**v13 Lead not into temptation:** We acknowledge our weakness and need for God's protection. Jesus knew this: **Mt 26:41; Lk 22:40,46. Deliver from evil: Psa 34:4-7; 2 Tim 4:18. Kingdom, power and glory:** Kingdom of king David when Solomon was made king: **1 Chr 29:10-19.**