

The Sermon on the Mount

[Matthew 6:1-18](#)

“Your Father Who is in Secret” – June 27, 2021



Introduction

Christ calls us to a radical righteousness. However, we must take heed that we are not practicing our righteousness for the sole reason of being seen by man. We should walk in humility and practice righteousness for the love and glory of God, not for selfish gain. When looking at these three ways below that Jesus calls us to walk in righteousness, examine your driving motives behind them. Ask the Lord to help you to want to do these things for His glory and not your own.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Righteousness when giving. (vs. [1-4](#))
- II. Righteousness when praying. (vs. [5-15](#))
- III. Righteousness when fasting. (vs. [16-18](#))

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1-4](#)

Jesus was not against acts of righteousness, but encouraged these acts. His warnings were to protect us from sinful motives behind our acts. Jesus expects us to give and be merciful to the needy. People in need are people that are not able to sustain themselves or those in their care. Who are some people in need in our outside of your sphere of influence that would be considered “those in need”? What are some ways you could serve them this week? If you are in need, have you let someone know in your church family and sought their godly counsel? Pastor Tony explained living as a religious hypocrite (which we all have some form in our deceitful hearts) is living as one who wears a mask to hide their true selves. Sometimes, this sin can be very subtle, but it's never missed by God. We are all sinful humans who should be striving to fight sin by trusting in Christ and the means of grace he has provided for us. (His word, the church family, and prayer as His Spirit works in us)

- 2) Read [5-15](#)

Scripture clearly teaches the importance of prayer. Take an honest assessment of your prayer life. How is your prayer life going? What are some ways you can promote a healthier prayer life to grow in godliness? Our private prayer life should overflow into all areas of our lives. Prayer is a true humility of heart towards God. Take the Lord's prayer this week and let it form the way you pray in your private prayer time. Notice the different areas Christ points us to pray for and trust Him in while reading the Lord's prayer.

3) Read [16-18](#)

Fasting in God's word is often seen as seeking for God's forgiveness or seeking for his wisdom. He warns us to not fast in the open to make it a public spectacle of how "righteous" we think we may look, but to do so quietly, truly seeking the Lord's help. Fasting, like prayer, is a coming to an end of ourselves. It's saying Lord, we need you. When is the last time you fasted? When is the last time you've sought God's face this earnestly? Maybe take some time in the coming weeks to fast for a day (even if it's breakfast and lunch to start) to seek God's wisdom and to seek His help for yourself or others in the church. Pray for Gospel work to go forth. Our church bulletin has many areas we can think to pray through every week. Use the bulletin as a guide for your prayer life. Some people for health reason can't fast from food, but try to fast from something that you see yourself going to instead of God's word or prayer most frequently. Fast and pray for a heart that is not looking for man's approval but for God's approval. A soft, teachable heart, that is in love with God's word.

Additional Reading: [Matthew 23:13](#), [Matthew 22:18](#), [Acts 5:1-11](#), [Ephesians 2:5](#)

Helpful Book to Consider Prayer: [A Prayer Life: Connecting with God in a Distracted World by Paul Miller](#)

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Matthew 6:19-34](#) "Be Anxious for Nothing"