

## Sermon on the Mount - Matthew Chapter 6

As most of America is now shut-down and people are sheltered in their homes, it is important that we do not forget how to live. Even though our earthly life may be on lockdown, our life of faith remains free and unaltered. Today we take a look at Jesus' sermon on the mount. In this section deals with the believer's personal life of faith, as it deals with the attitudes and unseen motives of the heart.

We live in a world of facebook, where everybody's life is made public. We live in a world of nightly news, where people's acts of kindness and generosity are showcased on TV. We live in a world of social media, where people follow and track everybody else's life. We live in a world of recognition, where trophies and awards are publicly given for achievements. As we live in such a world, we can be tempted to think, the good that we do or the achievements that we make, all don't mean very much unless the whole world is watching or the whole world knows.

However, a Christian's life is not lived seeking the glory of the world but a Christian's life is lived for the glory and praise of God alone. Look at what the Lord says about helping the poor, "*Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them.*" Look at what the Lord says about prayer, "*When you pray, go into your room, and close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen.*" Look at what the Lord says about fasting, "*When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting.*" With these Jesus was warning against hypocrisy, against the people who thought the more good and popular they could make themselves before men, then the more good and popular they would be in the sight of God.

What God cares about is the attitudes and motives of the heart. It is a timely reminder for us today. With so many needy, as you help and give aide, do it out of love for Christ. With so many on the verge of despair, as you pray for them, do it out of love for Christ. During these days of hardship, as you maybe sacrificing and going without, do it out of love for Christ. Do everything out of love for your Savior, who has lived and died for you. Do everything only in praise to Jesus, who through his resurrection from the dead has forgiven your sins and won your eternal salvation.

This world is not about obtaining earthly prizes, but holding onto our *Treasure in Heaven*. Even though we live in this world, a world in which our Lord graciously gives many blessings, let us remember we are heirs of heaven and so we live in this hope and certainty every day. Therefore in the last section Jesus teaches *Do Not Worry*, for our God will continue to provide all our earthly and spiritual needs. Even though the routine of our earthly life may be disrupted for a time, it in no way disrupts our life of faith. Continue to live as children of God. Continue to live in the hope and certainty of your salvation. Continue to live for Christ and for his praise and glory alone.

**Read Matthew Chapter 6 as today's Scripture lesson.**

Blessings to you and your families,

Pastor Guse