

# The Gospel of Matthew

The gospel of the Messiah, His Kingdom and His People

## LESSON 4

### MATTHEW 6

#### I. Chapter 6: 1-18

Continuing our study of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has corrected false teachings, and the selfish motives that underlie them, in the first part of His sermon. He then turns to false *practices* that had arisen among the Jews.

**Question 1:** What sin does Jesus warn against in vv. 1, 5, 16? Is it one of action only or also motive? What principle should we take from this warning to be true disciples? v. 3, 6, 17.

**Question 2:** What is Jesus emphasizing about God that He “sees in secret”?

**Question 3:** What is the character and motive of the “hypocrites” whom Jesus says we must not be like? (The Greek word *hoopokreetace*—from which we derive “hypocrisy”—referred to an actor, who in Greek society would have worn a mask to play a character.)

**Question 4:** Jesus focuses on giving to the needy, prayer and fasting in his instruction on genuine religious practice. Should we take this fact as putting continuing significance on these practices today for Jesus’ disciples?

#### II. Chapter 6: 9-13 “The Model Prayer”

Focusing on verses 9-13 which present what may be called the Lord’s model prayer, Jesus instructs by example in these verses the proper motive that is to underlie practices devoted to God. It stands in contrast to the motive of “the hypocrites” He has criticized.

**Question 5:** What spirit does Jesus emphasize in his model prayer? What point does he then emphasize from this prayer? vv. 14-15.

**Question 6:** How does the model prayer illustrate Jesus’ teaching from 6:33? (Note the emphasis on God’s kingdom in both.)

### **III. Chapter 6: 19-24**

Jesus then gives instructions about where people should focus their lives—on worldly things or on heaven.

**Question 7:** What principle is Jesus teaching in vv. 19-24? What does he tell us about ourselves as disciples?

**Question 8:** What does Jesus identify in vv. 22-23 about the effect on our lives from the decision we make about who will be our master?

### **IV. Chapter 6: 25-34**

Having instructed the people on the proper spirit to direct worship and prayer, and the commitment that everyone must make to God for their lives, Jesus then instructs on the confidence we can have in God in living godly lives.

**Question 9:** Given the context of verse 24, what do you think Jesus means by using the term “anxious” concerning these material things?

**Question 10:** How does Jesus describe the nature of God and His relationship to His people? vv.33-34. What does this truth about God then allow God’s people to do in living for Him?