

Assignments on Matthew 6

Please read Matthew 6 (note parallels in other accounts) and answer these questions.

1. What is the theme of 6:1-18? What specific conduct does Jesus discuss in 6:1-4?
2. How did the people in this case demonstrate improper motives? What reward did they receive for their conduct? What reward did they not receive?
3. List and discuss other passages about our need for proper motives in serving God.
4. Define “hypocrisy.” How does the conduct described here demonstrate hypocrisy?
5. List and discuss other passages that show the danger of seeking the praise of men.
6. Explain the illustration of the left hand and right hand – 6:3,4.

7. **Application:** Are we always wrong if other people learn about a good deed we did to help others? Explain the proper application and give modern examples that illustrate it.

8. How did Jesus say hypocrites prayed – 6:5? What was wrong with this?

9. **Application:** Where did Jesus say we should go to pray – 6:6? What are the advantages of private prayer? What lessons should we learn?

10. **Special Assignment:** Are Jesus’ instructions meant to forbid public prayer? Did Jesus or His disciples pray publicly where people knew they were praying? Proof? Do people sometimes refuse to pray in public because they are concerned about what people think?

11. What kind of prayer does Jesus forbid in 6:7? Define “vain repetition.”

12. List passages showing the importance of meaning and understanding our prayers.

13. **Application:** Give examples in which heathen idol worshipers illustrate vain repetition in prayer. What prayers today may illustrate vain repetition in prayer?

14. Do people sometimes use the prayer of verses 9-13 as a vain repetition? Explain.

15. Did Jesus or His disciples ever repeat the same ideas in prayers? Is it always wrong to pray the same things again? Give examples.

16. What does 6:8 tell about the nature of God? If He already knows our needs, why do we need to pray?

17. **Special Assignment:** In 6:9 Jesus said for us to pray “in this manner,” then verses 9-13 record a prayer. What does it mean to pray in this manner? Did Jesus mean for us to cite this prayer by rote repeatedly? Explain and prove your answer.

18. According to this passage, to whom should we address our prayers? To whom are prayers sometimes improperly addressed? Give other Scriptures.

19. Define “hallow.” What does it mean to hallow the name of God? In what ways do people sometimes fail to hallow God’s name?

20. At the time Jesus gave these teachings, in what sense was God’s kingdom yet to come? What has changed since that time? Proof? (Think: What can we learn from Jesus’ instruction to pray for the kingdom to come?)

21. In what sense is God's will done in heaven – 6:10?

22. Application: If we pray for God's will to be done on earth, what lessons should we learn? What changes would need to take place for this to come true?

23. In what sense is God the source of our daily bread – 6:11? Why should we pray to Him about it?

24. Does praying such a request eliminate our need to work for our necessities? What lessons should we learn?

25. What should we pray regarding forgiveness – 6:12?

26. List and discuss other passages showing Christians should pray for forgiveness. (Think: What should people who are not children of God do to receive forgiveness?)

27. What should we pray regarding temptation – 6:13? Does God tempt people? What is the significance of the prayer?

28. Application: If we pray for God to deliver us from evil, what responsibility does that give us regarding temptation? List other pertinent passages.

29. What is the significance of "Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory" – 6:13?

30. How does 6:14,15 relate to 6:12? What does it mean to “forgive” someone of sin?

31. List and explain other passages about forgiving other people.

32. **Case Study:** A commentator says Christians must “forgive all men without regard to their repentance.” Note Luke 17:3,4 and other passages. Does God forgive people if they have not repented? If we teach such people to repent, have we really forgiven them?

33. What practice did Jesus discuss in 6:16-18? Define what this practice involves.

34. How did hypocrites fast? What was wrong with this?

35. What does the New Testament teach about Jesus’ disciples fasting?

36. Explain the difference between treasures on earth and treasures in heaven – 6:19,20. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

37. List and explain other passages about how we should view material possessions.

38. Is Jesus saying it is wrong to accumulate material possessions? Explain and prove.

39. How does our treasure relate to our hearts – 6:21? Explain.

40. **Application:** Explain what Jesus is teaching about treasure. Give examples of ways we may allow possessions to wrongfully become too important.

41. In what sense is the eye the lamp of the body – 6:22,23? What is the difference between a good eye and a bad eye?

42. How does Jesus' teaching about eyes relate to the teaching in context about possessions and priorities?

43. How many spiritual masters may a person have? What is a master? Why can we have only one spiritual master – 6:24?

44. **Application:** How does Jesus' teaching about masters relate to the discussion in context about possessions? Give examples of the application.

45. What subject did Jesus introduce beginning in 6:25? (Think: Some older translations say to "take no thought" about the matters. How is this translated in newer translations?)

46. List and explain other passages that teach about our attitude toward material things.

47. **Application:** List other material, temporary aspects of life about which people often become obsessed.

48. In what sense is life more than food and the body more than clothing?

49. How did Jesus illustrate His point in 6:26? Explain His point. (Think: Does this mean it is wrong to reap and sow?)

50. What can worry not accomplish according to 6:27? Does this mean it is wrong to plan for the future? Explain the point.

51. How did Jesus illustrate His point again in 6:28-30? So is it wrong to toil and spin?

52. **Application:** How does “O you of little faith” help us understand the point?

53. Again, what habit is Jesus warning us against – 6:31? What people would be expected to have the problem Jesus is discussing – 6:32? Why would such people have this problem?

54. If God knows what we need, what does this tell us about God? Why is this important in this context?

55. What did Jesus say should be our “first” concern? Explain the significance of God’s kingdom and righteousness – 6:33.

56. List and explain other passages that describe what should be our priorities in life.

57. What promise does God give to those who pursue proper priorities?

58. **Application:** List specific applications we should make based on Jesus’ teaching about priorities.

59. What else should we not worry about – 6:34? Why not?

60. **Application:** Explain the lessons taught by 6:34. Does this mean we should ignore the future? Discuss some specific lessons we should learn.