

Sermon Notes

The Sermon on the Mount: Part 5

May 4th – 5th, 2024

- **The Sermon on the Mount, Recap:**
 - o The values and identity of the Kingdom of Heaven and it's citizens.
- **Part 5: Jesus on Giving, Prayer, and Fasting – Religious Observances**
- Doing things for God vs doing things for people.
 - o **Matthew 6:1**, doing things for God is way better!
 - What about **Matthew 5:16??** Holy Contradiction??
 - It's the difference between sharing something authentic vs pretense to impress others.
- Giving: **Matthew 6:2-4**
 - o This is describing offerings/alms. Difference between tithes and offerings.
 - Tithe is 10% of the increase, offering is above and beyond for a special situation.
 - Don't make it a big deal, i.e. pretense to impress.
 - When people make sure I see their tithe check...ok, let's be careful here.
 - Joke about the rich family that was pulling strings.
 - o How we give at Good Hope – give as the Spirit directs.
 - Tithing is important. God's economy: tithe => God blesses the 90% => we all win.
 - What is the fulfillment of tithing? **Matthew 23:23-24**
 - Financial giving is the easy part!!! Can be scary, so test tithe if you are ready.
- Prayer: **Matthew 6:5-8**
 - o Prayers as a pretense to impress others do not impress the Lord!
 - I pray in front of people a lot. I'm going for sharing something authentic vs pretense.
 - There is inappropriate pressure to keep Christians happy. Help me. **Heb 13:17**
 - o Pray in secret and your Father in Heaven hears you.
 - o Not many words necessary, He wants to give you what you need.
 - How long do you have to pray to earn a healing? You can't earn a healing.
 - Sometimes you pray through. We will talk about that in the "fasting" part.
 - o Jesus gives an example: The Lord's Prayer, **Matthew 6:9-13**.
 - This is an example not a liturgy. Different approaches are ok. Ryan Aarstad example.
 - Jesus' example includes: honoring the Father, praying for the Kingdom, provision, peace, sanctification.
 - Then there is **Matthew 6:14-15** to complete the thought. Wow, let's get this one right!!
- Fasting: **Matthew 6:16-18**
 - o This is regular prayer on steroids. Not a show, but extra time seeking God.
 - o October Prayer and Fasting Month.
 - o Why fast? When you need a spiritual breakthrough, renewal, clarity, inner change, etc.
 - o Jesus prayed all night before choosing the 12. **Luke 6:12-15**
- Jesus prays at Gethsemane **Matthew 26:36-45**. Why? It didn't change anything.
 - o It was a prayer for strength. Jesus got it, the others didn't. Let's get it.
- For prayer email prayer@goodhope.ag Have a blessed day!