

Background: In Matthew 5, Jesus has addressed how to deal with causes, i.e. the cause of murder, of adultery, of broken relationships, i.e., of divorce, of broken trust, of seeking revenge, and of fueling hostility among people. In chapter 6:1-23, he addresses and corrects the common motivation in his day for doing “acts of righteousness,” the safest place to store our treasures and the effects of unhealthy vision or perspective.

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY? Instruction: Answer the following questions based on what is actually said in MT 6:1-23.

1. According to 6:1:
 - a. What are we to be careful not to do?
 - b. What will happen if we do this?

2. According 6:2-4, when you give to the needy:
 - a. What are you not to do?
 - b. Who in Jesus’ day gave to the needy in this way?
 - c. What was their reward?
 - d. What does Jesus say to do when you give to the needy?
 - e. Where will your giving be done?
 - f. In giving this way, who will see you doing it?
 - g. What will result from giving this way?

3. According to 6:5-15, when you pray:
 - a. Like whom are we not to be?
 - b. What do these people love to achieve in their way of praying?
 - c. What will their reward be for praying in this way?
 - d. What does Jesus say to do when you pray?
 - e. Who will see you praying in this way?
 - f. What will result from praying this way?
 - g. When you pray, what are you to avoid doing?
 - h. Who does this?
 - i. What do they think will result from praying this way?
 - j. Why are we not to pray like they do?
 - k. What are the main things Jesus says to include when we pray?
 - l. In 6:14, what does Jesus stress about forgiving others?
 - m. In 6:15, what does Jesus say happens if we do not forgive others when we pray?

4. According to 6:16-18, when we fast:
 - a. What are we not to do?
 - b. Why do they do this?
 - c. What is their reward?
 - d. What does Jesus say to do when you fast?
 - e. Why does he say to fast in this way?
 - f. Who does Jesus say sees you fasting?
 - g. What does he say results from fasting this way?

5. According to 6:19-21,
 - a. Where are we not to store up our treasures?
 - b. Why are we not to store up treasure in this place?
 - c. Where does Jesus instruct us to store up treasures?
 - d. Why does he say to store our treasures in this place?
 - e. What does storing treasure in this place assure about our hearts?

6. According 6:22-23,
 - a. What is the human eye said to be?
 - b. If our eyes are healthy, sound and free from impediments, what results?
 - c. If our eyes become unhealthy, unsound and full of impediments, what results?
 - d. In this saying, what does Jesus stress that we need to be sure to do?

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN? Instruction: Answer the following questions as best you can.

1. What are the main things that impress you in what Jesus says in these verses?

2. Are there any adjustments or corrections you need to make in your giving, in your praying or in your fasting?

3. What is the most important thing you are committed to practicing out of these verses?

4. To teach someone else to practice these things, what would you have to do?