

WEEK 20, 2025

Bible Reading

	Event	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
1	Teaching on Almsgiving	6:1-4			
2	Teaching on Prayer	6:5-15		11:2-4	
3	Teaching on Fasting	6:16-18			
4	Teaching on Treasure	6:19-21		12:33-34	
5	The eye is the light of the body	6:22-23		11:34-36	
6	Seek first the kingdom of God	6:24-34		12:22-34	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. In Matthew 6, while teaching on prayer, our Lord Jesus used hypocrites and heathen as references. Who is a hypocrite? And who is a heathen? Use prayer to explain the two.

Answer

A hypocrite is a Jew (or a believer) whose prayers are directed to God. Such Jew or believer is regarded as hypocrite because he prays to the living God to be seen of men and for show off. As such, the God he prays to, who sees and knows the intents of men's heart, will not answer his prayers.

A heathen, on the other hand, prays not to the living God but idols. He make the idols with their own hands and prays to it. The idol has ears which cannot hear, yet they pray to it repeatedly hoping that the idol will hear. Such prayers, though repeated, are in vain. Example of such are the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18. They pray repeatedly to their idol, and yet it didn't hear.

2. Jesus taught us not to use vain repetition in prayers, as the heathens do, does that mean we should not pray a prayer point repeatedly?

Answer

No, it is not wrong to pray a prayer point repeatedly. Jesus taught us in Luke 18 about a widow who kept coming to the evil judge with the same request, and told us to follow the same pattern.

In **Matthew 26:37-46**, Jesus himself prayed three times. Elijah in **1 Kings 18:43** prayed seven times before heaven was open for rain. It is therefore not wrong to pray the same prayer multiple times.

But, vain repetition means repetition that does not yield any result. And Jesus used it in the context of those who pray to idols. It does not matter how

many times a prayer is repeated to an idol, such prayer will yet not be answered, because idols have no ears to hear prayers.

But we believers repeat our prayers as a matter of persistence, knowing fully well that the God we pray to has the ability to hear, and that he will hear us.

(**NOTE** :- You don't have to mention the bible verses mentioned in the answer)

3. Mat 6:8: "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for **your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.**"

Mat 6:32: "(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for **your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.**"

That makes it clear that God knows all our needs, even before we ask him.

Why then do we have to pray? Why can't God just fulfil what we need without we having to ask him.

Answer:

First and foremost, asking for needs is part of prayer, but there is more to prayer than that. Prayer is a relationship. It is a system of building relationship and dependency upon God.

God wants us to ask for our needs in prayers, not because he doesn't know them, but because he wants us to show our interest. There are needs God fulfils without we having to ask, but there are needs he fulfils only when we ask.

For instance, God knows all men need salvation, and he even wants all men to be saved, yet only those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Because God knows our needs, he already has a provision for them, however he desires we ask for that provision, in prayers, for the needs to be met.

We therefore ask God for our needs to show our interest in receiving what he already knows we need, and what he is already willing to give us.

4. A man who gives money to the church, ministers and God's people is just wasting his money. Discuss.

Answer

That is untrue, giving to the church, ministers and God's people is not a waste. The teaching of our Lord Jesus, as recorded in **Matthew 6** shows that God rewards those who give, as long as they give not to show off.

Our Lord Jesus also taught that a man who gives is laying up treasures for himself in heaven. The money we give is therefore not a waste.

5. State two reasons why you should lay your treasures in heaven

Answer

- I should lay my treasures in heaven because heaven is safe and secure. Treasures laid on earth is open to corruption and theft, but nothing can affect the treasures I lay in heaven for myself.
- I should lay my treasures in heaven so that I may be heavenly conscious, for where my treasure is, there will my heart be.

6. Since God wants my fasting to be in secret, is it wrong if I tell people that are close to me about my fasting?

Answer

There is nothing wrong in telling people that are close to you that you are fasting, like your parent, spouse, children etc. Keeping them aware of it does not affect the reward of your fasting. However, your motive for telling others about your fasting matters. You should never fast to show off, or to receive praise of men, but rather fast for God to see you and reward you for it.

7. In **Matthew 6:19-20**, Jesus asked us to lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven. State one way by which we can achieve this?

Answer

The way to lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven is by giving to poor saints and to the gospel of Christ. (Luke 12:33, Luke 18:22). For whatsoever we do for God's people, we do it unto the Lord himself.

8. How do we know a believer who lacks faith in God for provision, and what counsel should we give to such?

Answer

A believer who does not have faith in God for provision will be full of anxiety. He/She will always be worried and concerned about what to eat, drink and put on. He/she will not seek after God's kingdom but rather seek after material things, just like unbelievers.

Counsel:

If our Father provides food for the fowls of the air, and beautiful garment for lilies of the field, we are certain that he would provide for us too, for we are

more precious to him than them. All we have to do is seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and everything will be added unto us.

9. Compare and contrast the two scriptures below:

Luke 11:4 "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us"

Ephesians 4:32 "forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Answer

The two scriptures teach about forgiveness in different light.

Before the finished work of Christ, as stated in **Luke 11:4**, a man must forgive his fellow man for him to earn God's forgiveness. But, after the finished work of Christ, we believers are meant to forgive our fellow men because God for Christ's sake has already forgiven us.

In **Luke**, which is under the Old Testament, we forgive others so that we also may be forgiven. But in the **epistles**, we forgive others not so that we can be forgiven, but because we have already been forgiven.

10. **Matthew 6:22-23** "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

Briefly discuss that scripture.

Answer

The eye in the context of that scripture is the eye of the heart or mind, that is the spiritual sight. If the spiritual sight of a man is single (i.e. clear and healthy), such a man will be full of light (i.e. God's precepts). And a man

whose eye is evil is a man who is spiritually blind, such a man will be filled with darkness.

We believers have a good spiritual sight, and we must consistently ask God to flood our eyes with light, that we may know him and walk in his ways continually.