

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 19

The LORD Looketh on the Heart, (1Sa 16:7)

The last verse in chapter 5 sums up the whole chapter; **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”** (Mat 5:48).

The Apostle Peter clarifies that statement this way;

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind,

be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (Lev 20:7)

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory;

that your faith and hope might be in God” (1Pe 1:13-21).

Last Sunday’s message was **“Who then can be saved?”** (Mark 10:26), after our Lord had told His disciples **“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God”**. they asked that question. After hearing these words of our Lord; **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”** (Mat 5:48), I ask the same question; **“Who then can be saved?”** and here is His answer, **“With men impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible”** (Mar 10:27).

Our faith and hope must be in Christ, and Christ alone, the message of Salvation is **“Christ and Him Crucified”**, not Christ and him crucified plus this or that! There is no other way; **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (Joh 14:6). what we may have thought of as our righteousness, is nothing more than filthy rags of the flesh, we have no righteousness of this body of death, if we are not in Christ, in His righteousness, then there is no hope! So as we go through this 6th chapter of Matthew, where our Savior continues in His sermon on the mount, let us keep in mind; **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”** (Luk 12:34).

Giving to the Needy

Mat 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Mat 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Mat 6:3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

Mat 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Brother Don Fortner wrote; “our Lord Jesus Christ is warning us to be aware of and studiously avoid hypocrisy in all acts of worship and service in the name of God. Hypocrisy is the leaven of the Pharisees, the leaven of outward religion. If it reigns in us, it will ruin us. So we are warned to beware of it. Hypocrisy is religion that is only skin deep. It is a religion of words and works, but not of grace, heart, and spirit. Hypocrisy is a form of godliness, an outward show of religion, without the life and power of God in the soul”.

Prayer

Mat 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Mat 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Mat 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

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 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Mat 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Mat 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Mat 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Mat 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Fasting

Mat 6:16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Mat 6:17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

Mat 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Our Master is calling our attention to three areas of religious activities that folks easily turn into mere acts of religious showmanship, three areas of religious service where hypocrisy shows itself – the giving of alms, the matter of prayer, and the practice of fasting. Alms, prayer, and fasting were prominent areas of religious activity among the Jews of our Lord’s day. In fact, wherever men practice religion even today of any kind, it is most natural to make these three things matters of prominence. Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Christianity Protestant as well as Catholic, all religions encourage alms, prayers, and fasting. Men naturally associates these things with religion. By these three things, it is assumed that we serve God with our whole being. In the giving of alms we serve him with our estates, in prayer with our souls, and in fasting with our bodies.

In all our acts of worship, devotion, and service to God, we must avoid seeking to be seen of men and seek only to be seen of and to glorify the Lord God.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Mat 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Mat 6:23 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!

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

“WHEN LIGHT IS BLACK”

What if everything you were ever told about the Lord Jesus Christ was wrong? What if the only hope that you ever had, believed in, and counted on, turned out to be a lie and false? How great would be your loss?

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. 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!”** (How great would be your loss)

Light from God:

All light from God is TRUTH, but much so-called light masquerades for truth in our day. And belief of that false light runs rampant in our world. Trusting in a false light is no light whatsoever! There is no darkness blacker than a false hope. We live in a time of great deception! Grand delusion! A time when MOST of the so-called Christian world runs headlong to hell singing hymns of worship side by side in halls of great swelling numbers! This is that time....and this is our world today!

(Revelation13:3) **“and all the world wondered after the beast,”**

Make your calling and election sure:

Unless a person is born again the eye with which he attempts to view such matters of faith is evil he can't possibly perceive the kingdom of God through a wicked eye! His single source of light is darkness! Yea he walks in that darkness THINKING himself safe. Thinking his path is right!

So, then what?

Read the word, prayerfully, carefully, and often Take God at His word! Cry out for His mercy. The only hope any of us have is that God would have mercy on us and give us LIFE! We MUST be born again! Make your calling and election SURE!

If man is glorified (in ANY way whatsoever) then your hope is a FALSE HOPE!

Excerpt of "FreeWillard" by Mike Loveless

Do Not Be Anxious

Mat 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Mat 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Mat 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Mat 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Mat 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Mat 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Mat 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

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.

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Henry Mahan once said;

“We have entirely too many fears for a people to whom the Lord has said, ‘Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.’

““We have far too many doubts and fears concerning God’s mercy, love, and grace for a people to whom the Lord has said, ‘Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out...I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish.’”

“We spend entirely too much time grumbling and complaining about our trials and troubles for a people to whom the Lord has said, ‘In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.’”

“We have entirely too much attachment to this world and to this present life for a people who are looking for a city whose Builder and Maker is God “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God..”

“We have far too much anxiety, care, and fear, far too much concern for earthly, material things for a people to whom the Lord has said, ‘Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things’”.

It is written, **“My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”** (Php 4:19).

Why should I fret when my God has promised to provide? Why should I concern myself about that which God has promised to do?

Those five, heart-piercing statements are the very matters addressed in our Redeemer's message to us in Mat 6:19-34.

If we seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, if we truly seek the will of God, the glory of God, and the kingdom of God in Christ, we have no reason to be concerned with earthly things.

Let me leave you with some more words of comfort to you who need it!

(Isa 40:1-5) Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

(Heb 8:10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: --

(Heb 8:12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

He who redeemed us with His precious blood will never forget to take care of us. May He give us grace to leave all our concerns with Him and be anxious only to be found in His kingdom, robed in His righteousness, and accepted as one with Him. Let us take no thought for tomorrow, knowing that **“whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's”** (Rom 14:8).