PRACTICE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO BE SEEN BY YOUR FATHER

Matthew 6:1–18

Key Verse: 6:1

1. What does it mean to “practice your righteousness”? (5:16,20) About what wrong motive does Jesus warn us? (1; 16:6; cf. Jn5:44; 7:18; 12:43; Php2:3a) How did this motive taint everything the religious leaders were doing? (23:5–7) What did Jesus say about gaining the Father’s reward? (1b,4,6,18) How can we live like this? (2Co4:18; Heb11:27)

1. What did Jesus teach about giving? (2–4) In this context, who are “the hypocrites”? What does it mean to “announce it with trumpets”? To “not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”? (25:37–40)
2. What did Jesus teach about prayer? (5,6) Why is private prayer so important? What else did Jesus teach about prayer? (7,8; Ecc5:2)
3. Read verses 9–13. How does this prayer help us in our practical lives to focus on God and to depend on him? What does it mean to address God as “our Father in heaven”? To pray for his name to be “hallowed”? (Eze36:23) To pray for his kingdom to come? (Da7:27; Rev12:10) For his will to be done? (7:21; 12:50; 26:39,42)
4. Why should we pray only for “daily bread”? (11; Pr30:8,9) Why should we also always pray for forgiveness? (14,15) What should our final prayer request always be, and why? (13)
5. What did Jesus teach about fasting? (16–18) What purposes does fasting serve in our Christian life? (9:14,15; Ac13:2,3; 14:23)