

READ

Matthew 6:5-14

CONSIDER

Read Matthew 6:1-18 and you will see 3 distinct sections on how we practice our righteousness. Jesus expects his disciples to give alms, pray and fast. The heart of this section is found in v1 where Jesus says, "be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them." He is assuming we should practice our righteousness. He is assuming (as Jewish fasts often were corporate) that we practice our spiritual disciplines in public. The key to understanding this section is to not practice righteousness in order to be recognized by others. Essentially, Jesus is calling us to examine our hearts to make sure we practice the way of Jesus for Jesus & not the approval of people.

As we look at the section on prayer, Jesus not only warns against praying in order to earn the praise of people but teaches us how to pray. This is the model prayer that continues to shape the way we are called as believers to pray individually and corporately. This week, Rev. Andrew Stuart from People's Church will be taking us into God's Word as we continue to learn how Jesus is calling us to love God and love others.

Pastor Tim Sreedharan

PRAY

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Father, help us to bring glory and praise to your Name. May our worship usher in your kingdom and wonder into this world. Father, we trust and ask that you provide what we need, help us to forgive others and keep us from the temptations of sin, the flesh and the devil. We praise your glorious Name.
Amen.

DIVING DEEPER

Week 4

Before we dive in...

Matthew 6:5-13

(The Values of the Kingdom)

How would you describe your prayer life?

When it comes to prayer, who is someone you respect?

- **Read 6:5-8.** This is the second section about not practicing your righteousness in front of others (6:1-4 about giving and 6:16-18 about fasting). Why is it important to practice righteousness but not for the sake of others?
- What principles about prayer can be gleaned from this section?
- If you want to learn more about rewards, [click here](#).
- **Read the Lord's Prayer (v9-13).** The simple structure to this prayer is **Worship (v9), Kingdom (v10), Provision (v11), Forgiveness (v12) and Temptation (v13)**. How does this compare to the way you pray? Of the five sections, what comes naturally and what tends to be a struggle?
- The Lord's Prayer teaches us to worship (v9) and then seek first his kingdom (v10) before coming to him for our daily needs (v11). How does this passage connect with the Great Commandment found in **Matthew 22:36-40**?