

REJECTION OF THEIR PRACTICE
Wealth, Faith and Judging Others
Matthew 6:19-7:6

²⁰*...unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes & Pharisees, you'll never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

Rejection of their practice 6-7:6

6 areas of concern about their practice

1st 3 contain 1 basic message:

Their practice is a show!

Parallel expressions in these 3 warnings:

They are hypocrites (= fakes),
putting on a show!

They do it to be seen by people:

They have received their reward

=> people's praise

We should do our religious deeds in private

Our Father will see in private & reward in private

Concerning almsgiving 6:1-4

Concerning prayer 6:5-15

CONCERNING FASTING 6:16-18

¹⁶*"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

In their religious show, they want everyone to see how they "suffer for God!"

When you fast, clean up and dress up, so it doesn't become a show of *my* suffering.

Authentic fasting: intense focus on seeking God's will—more important than eating!

CONCERNING WEALTH 6:19-24

19-21 *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Paul restates Jesus' words about money in

1 Tim 6:6-10, 17-19

*"...**Godliness with contentment is great gain**, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who **desire** to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For **the love of money** is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

¹⁷*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus **storing up***

treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

Jesus warns his listeners about the danger of imitating their leaders' views about money.

They have an earth-centered view of money.

Jewish philosophy toward money:

"Whom the Lord loveth, He maketh rich"

Deut 28 promised He will bless His people materially if they obey His word, & discipline them to want & poverty if they disobey.

Developed into Jewish prosperity gospel: riches are a sure sign of God's pleasure.

Their highest goal:

to accumulate material wealth.

Christ's corrective:

Material goods can be lost to thieves, moths or rust

What is material is temporary.

It's better to focus on permanent treasure.

What we love will enslave us!

Implications for us?

What we see, what we focus on, will control us.

Pharisees' eyes are spiritually diseased.

With their eyes they're focusing on darkness.

They're slaves of greed.

Matt 6:22-23

²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Implications for us? [Warning for us?]

They're serving the wrong master!

In their pursuit of money,
they fail to serve God!

Matt 6:24

²⁴"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Implications for us?

Their focus is on physical things—esp. money.

Jesus' corrective:

Rather than focus on material things,
focus on God.

Let Him take care of what you need for tomorrow =>

CONCERNING FAITH 6:25-34

Do Not Be Anxious

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

God’s people should pursue His kingdom;

He can provide everything else we need for today and for tomorrow.

Paul: if you have food and clothing, that’s enough for contentment.

Jesus says, we don’t have to worry about that either.

If we focus on following Him,

He’ll provide everything we need.

CONCERNING JUDGING OTHERS 7:1-6

7:1-2 Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, & with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

[Rom 2:1-5] Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ²We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his **kindness** and **forbearance** and **patience**, not knowing that **God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance**? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

Religious leaders are experts at judging others.

["Do not judge!" = "Stop judging!"]

Refers to Pharisees’ practice of setting selves up as judges & measuring others by themselves.

They aren’t nearly as good a standard as they think they are!

They’d better pay attention to *their* shortcomings!

He just pointed out areas where they come up short of God's desire, because their heart isn't right.

They criticize "common" people for not measuring up to *their* standards.

Passage *doesn't* say what people use it to say:

Not that we should never make judgments.

Not that we shouldn't distinguish between good & evil

Not that we shouldn't discern between truth & error.

He warns about **danger of condemning others for not measuring up to *our* standards.**

Judgment of others, without mercy, will be turned back on us.

People who want to be treated with mercy must treat others with mercy.

Matt 9:10-13 "As Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors & sinners came & were reclining with Jesus & his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors & sinners?" ¹²When he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go & learn what this means, '***I desire mercy, & not sacrifice.***' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Do we expect God to show us kindness, forbearance, patience, when we judge others with critical severity?

Implications for us?

[Appropriate judgment? Inappropriate?]

7:3-5 "Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there's the log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, & then you'll see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Religious leaders offer to help *common* people clean up their act, but aren't concerned about their own proud, self-centered, critical attitudes

Pentecost: Speck of sawdust and plank are identical in nature; they differ only in size. Jesus already said they do same things

(here He adds: Only worse!)

Paul points out: what we judge in others, is often *our* problem! We judge others to divert attention from ourselves!

Implications for us?

6 "Don't give dogs what is holy, & don't throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot & turn to attack you."

Dogs and pigs were despised

They weren't allowed into holy places
or to contact what's holy.

Don't try to clean up and dress up a pig!

Don't try to preach holiness to unholy people.

They'll turn on you, and try to destroy you!

That's not-so-subtle way of pointing out the character of the religious leaders who want to destroy Jesus.

“Don't waste your time on them!

They aren't seeking truth!

This warning indicates He didn't expect leaders to respond well to His warning, nor to accept His message as truth.

Implications?

DISCUSSION: *How should Lord's words affect OUR lives?*

How should WE apply words this week? What will change?

How can we live counter-culturally—against flow of culture?