

Matthew 6:1-21 1-6, 16-21

A Introduction: Personal Piety

- 1 "BEWARE of practicing your **RIGHTEOUSNESS** before others A
in order to be seen by them, B
for then you have **NO reward** from your Father in heaven. C

B Concerning Almsgiving

- 2 "So whenever you give alms, A
do not sound a trumpet before you, B
as the **HYPOCRITES** do in the synagogues and in the streets,
so that they may be praised by others. C
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. D
- 3 But when you give alms, A'
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, B'
- 4 so that your alms may be done in secret, C'
and your Father who **sees in secret** will reward you. D'

C Concerning Prayer

- 5 "And whenever you pray, A
do not be like the **HYPOCRITES**, B
for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues
and at the street corners,
so that they may be seen by others. C
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. D
- 6 But whenever you pray, A'
go into your room and shut the door B'
and pray to your Father who is in secret, C'
and your Father who **sees in secret** will reward you. D'

D How to Pray

- 7 "When you are praying, A
do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, B
for they think that they will be heard D
because of their many words.
- 8 **Do not** be like them, B'
for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. D'

X THE CENTER (The Prayer)

- 9 "Pray, then, in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
may your name be revered as holy.
- 10 May your kingdom come.
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- 11 Give us today our daily bread.
- 12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- 13 And **do not** bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.^[1]

D' How to Pray

- 14 "For if you forgive others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
15 but if you **do not** forgive others,^[2]
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

C' Concerning Fasting

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| 16 | "And whenever you fast, | A |
| | do not look somber, like the HYPOCRITES , | B |
| | for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. | C |
| | Truly I tell you, they have received their <u>reward</u> . | D |
| 17 | But when you fast, | |
| | put oil on your head and wash your face, | A' |
| 18 | <u>so that</u> your fasting may be seen not by others | B' |
| | but by your Father who is in secret, | C' |
| | and your Father who sees in secret will <u>reward</u> you. | D' |

B' Concerning Treasures

- 19 "**Do not** store up for yourselves treasures on earth, A
where moth and rust consume B
and where thieves break in and steal, C
20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, A'
where neither moth nor rust consumes B'
and where thieves do not break in and steal. C'

A' Conclusion: Personal Piety

- 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Footnotes

1. [6.13](#) Or *from evil*. Other ancient authorities add, in some form, *For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen.*
2. [6.15](#) Other ancient authorities add *their trespasses*