

Nourishing Our Inner Life

Christian community

Matthew 6

3 acts of righteousness

All in secret

It will be seen openly as God rewards us

Reward is NOT salvation

Giving alms

“OUR father, not my father”

Our needs, our responsibilities, our life together

Give up “I”

It’s not safe to ask God for anything if we haven’t made the fundamental decision to fully submit to Jesus

Go into the store room to pray: when the store room is empty, you need to pray! When it’s full, you can celebrate and praise God for bringing in the harvest. We need to know where we stand!

Prayer

6 requests he wants us to ask about

- 1) hallowed be thy name
 - a. take no action that will not honor God’s name
- 2) thy kingdom come
 - a. take no action that will not bring the kingdom
- 3) thy will be done
 - a. let what I have be exactly according to your will
 - b. now we’re in a position for the nourishing of the Holy Spirit to come to us
 - c. “even though you slay me, yet will I trust you. I will not curse God and die!”
 - d. This is a place of fatness in the soul; peace and joy; relax with one another; sharp words laid aside; because it’s in God we trust. We desire the ends of the kingdom of God, not our own ends!
- 4) Bread
 - a. Signifies life/death issue; solid food
 - b. Broken body of Jesus Christ
 - c. “I’m going to prepare a table for you in the presence of your enemies. Your cup will overflow. Surely goodness and mercy will follow all the days of your life!”
 - d. Rich in the inner life
 - e. Also practical needs
 - f. Not just MY needs, but OUR needs as a family
- 5) Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
 - a. Release person we’re angry with
 - b. Richness in heart will allow us to forgive others even when we are in need

- c. You're in abject spiritual poverty if you have to go and choke your brother for what he owes you
 - d. Freely say I forgive you and love you; I have a great abundance! Because we're praying to "Our Father"
 - e. OUR debts
- 6) Lead us not to temptation, but deliver us from evil
- a. Break the bondage the evil one has over my life
 - b. Entire sanctification—the devil has no hold on our life

Fasting

Day of atonement

We would find out if we had been washed and been made clean

We faced stoning before the congregation if we had hidden sin

The day when you abstain from food, be in a somber mood in your spirit, not your face

Search your heart to see if there's sin in your life

It's a day of repentance and evaluation before God

CONFESS YOUR SIN and ask for forgiveness

Focus your entire heart on Jesus; no news, television, etc

If we hold sin in our hearts, our prayers will not be answered

The measure of your spiritual life is whether you can go into the privacy of the storage room and from that hidden place change what's happening in the physical realm

How could we survive if no one prayed for us???