**All For the Father**

*Matthew 6:1-18*

**Introduction**

* Jesus continues to explain how our righteousness should exceed that of the scribe’s and Pharisees’.
* Their righteousness was merely an appearance of righteousness for the praise of men (Matthew 23:5-7, 27-28).
* True righteousness is sincere (not like the hypocrites; *“like the hypocrites”*) worship and obedience to please God, not yourself or men.
1. Righteousness Before God, not Man (v. 1)
* Early manuscripts have the general word righteousness. (NASV, ESV)
* Covers everything a Christian does.
* The three categories discussed later fall under this.
1. “to be seen by them”
* Not concealed righteousness.
* Suggests the motive/purpose.
* To be seen – *theaomai* – to look *closely* at; view *attentively*.
	+ Theater comes from this Greek word. (a place for seeing shows; public shows)
* 6:2, 5, 16 (the hypocrites want to put on a show – act the part)
	+ When an actor plays the part, he goes home and is something completely different. He is only that character when *in the theater*.
* 5:16 – let our light shine. (Not concealed righteousness, but true righteousness.)
* It should be for the purpose of pleasing God – Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4
1. We must be righteous and show it! (5:16)
* Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:11-12

*Three specific acts of righteousness discussed.*

1. Charitable Deeds (v. 2-4)
* Alms – charity to the poor.
1. What not to do?
* “Sound a trumpet.”
	+ Used to call attention or alert – Joshua 6:5 (Jericho); Nehemiah 4:20 (Rebuilding wall of Jerusalem after it was leveled during Babylonian captivity; Danger of Sanballat attacking)
* “Let your left hand know what your right is doing.”
	+ If it were possible for your hand to know, give in such a way that it would be unaware. (opposite of sounding a trumpet)
1. What to do?
* “Let it be done in secret.”
1. Prayer (v. 5-15)
2. What not to do?
* “Pray on the corners of the streets.”(v. 5)
* “Use vain repetitions.” (v. 7)
	+ Not condemning praying often – Luke 18:1 (persistent widow); 2 Thessalonians 1:11
	+ Ex. Of vain rep.: Reciting the Example prayer
1. What to do?
* “Go into your room, shut the door.”
* “Pray in this manner.”
	+ Not Lord’s prayer, rather, example prayer.
	+ Address the prayer. “Our Father” (those in Christ)
	+ Show reverence. “Hallowed be Your name.” (to make holy)
	+ Show submission. “Your Kingdom Come.” (Hadn’t come yet. Show willingness to accept His authority and submit to it.)
	+ Further show of submission. “Your will be done.”
	+ Physical needs. “Give us this day our daily bread.”
	+ Forgiveness. “Forgive us our debts.”
	+ Guidance and protection. “Lead us not into temptation.” “Deliver us from the evil one.”
	+ Recognition of His divine nature. “Yours is the kingdom, power, glory, forever.”
* “Forgive your debtors.”
1. Fasting (v. 16-18)
* 1 Corinthians 7:5 (husband/wife relations) – For the purpose of focusing.
* When you take efforts to focus on spiritual things. Philippians 4:8
1. What not to do?
* “Do not have a sad countenance.”
1. What to do?
* “Anoint your head, and wash your face.”

**Conclusion**

*“Your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”* – Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:16 (talking of God’s righteous judgment)

The next lesson will explain what the reward from the Father is (6:19-24).