

Matthew 6:1-18

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 6:1-18 Part 4

He is not starting a new religion!

Note how often he says "your Father in heaven"



Are you religious ?

Alms

Prayer

Fasting

Most religions practise these
BUT what does Jesus want ?

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Alms



Be careful not to do your `acts of righteousness` before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.



**Righteousness
deeds**

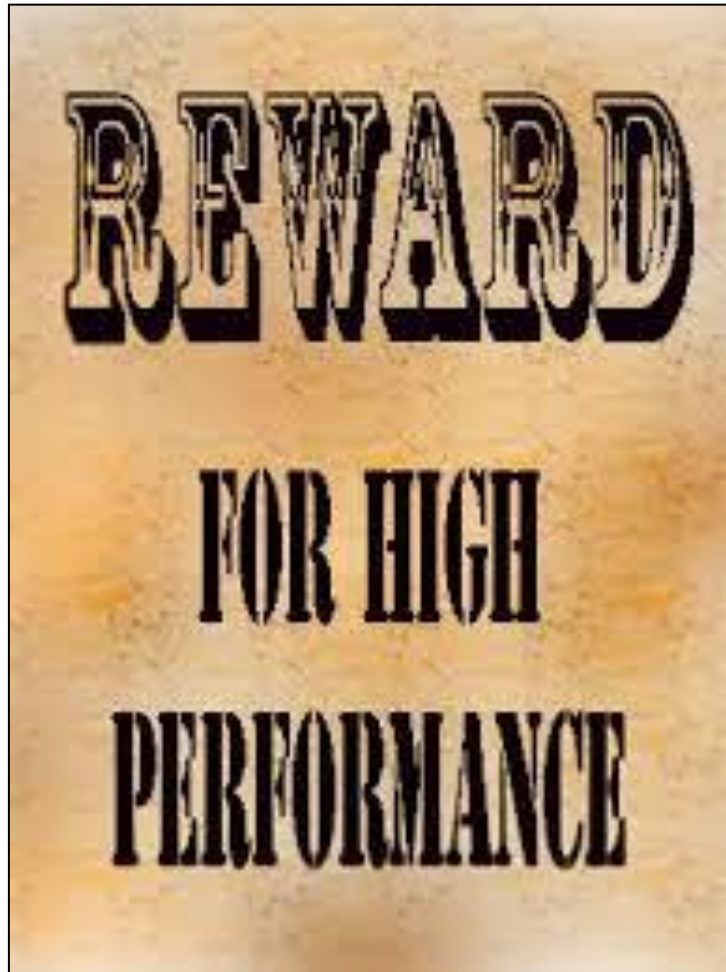
Galatians 2:10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

How not to do it !

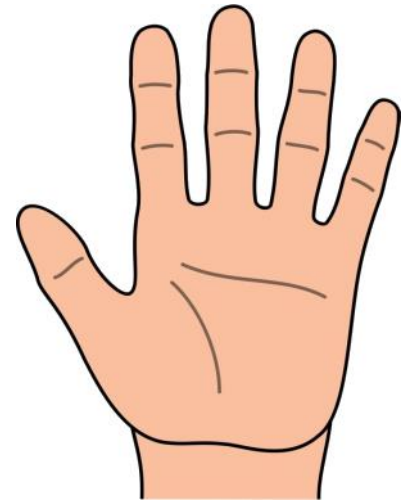
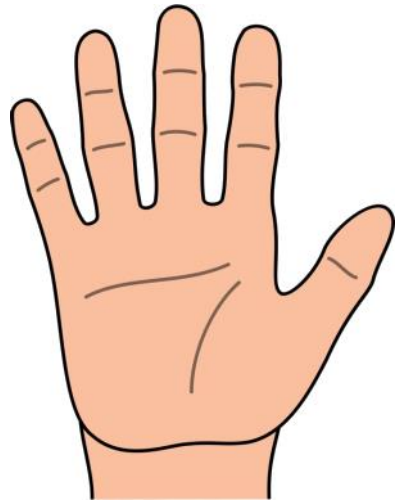
So when you (yourself) give to the needy, **do not announce it with trumpets**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men.



I tell you the truth,
they have received their reward in full.



What did they want, and what did they get ?



But when you give to the needy, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing**, so that your giving may be in secret. Then **your Father**, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer

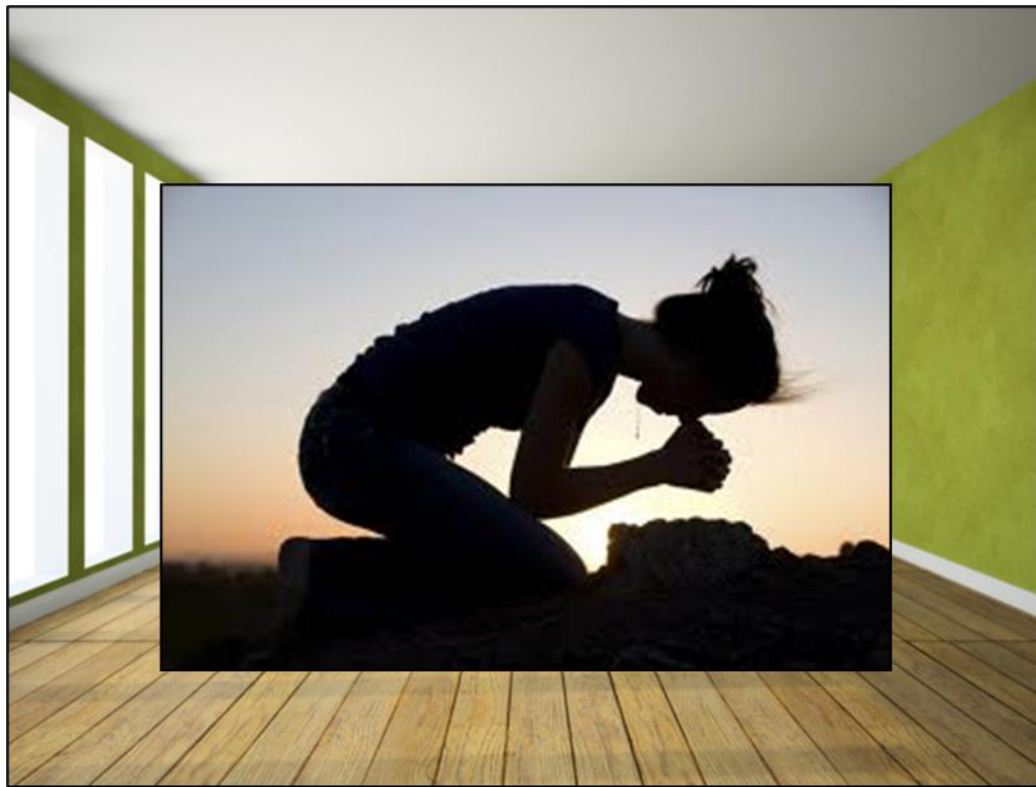


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BUT what does Jesus want ?



And when you pray, **do not be like the hypocrites**, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

But when you (yourself) pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer,

And when you pray, **do not keep on babbling** like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Blah blah blah

Blah blah blah

Blah blah blah

Blah blah blah



This, then, is how you should pray..

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**



**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.**

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**

A serious Warning !



For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

WARNING!

**Unforgiveness is a serious block to
answered prayer**

The Lord's (Disciple's) Prayer

**God and his kingdom has first place in our hearts
God is building his kingdom on Earth!**

**Our needs for a blessed life
daily necessities
forgiveness (our responsibilities)
protection (we have enemies !)**

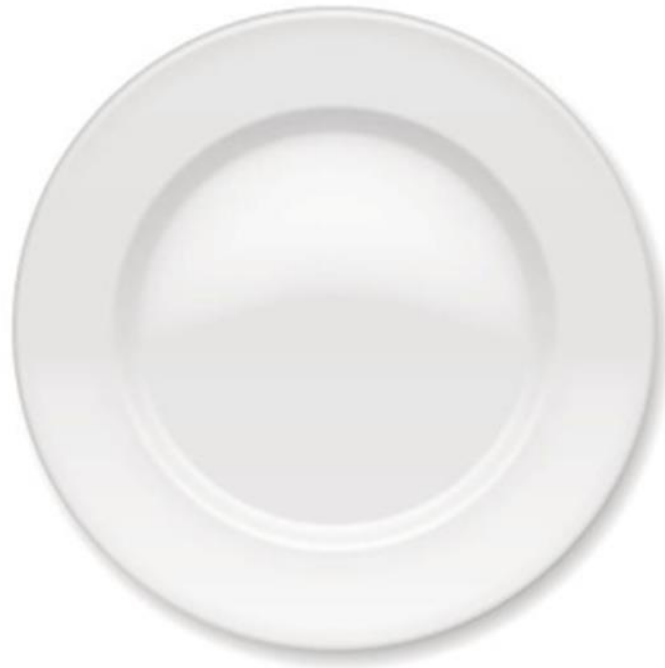
Praise and Worship

Fasting

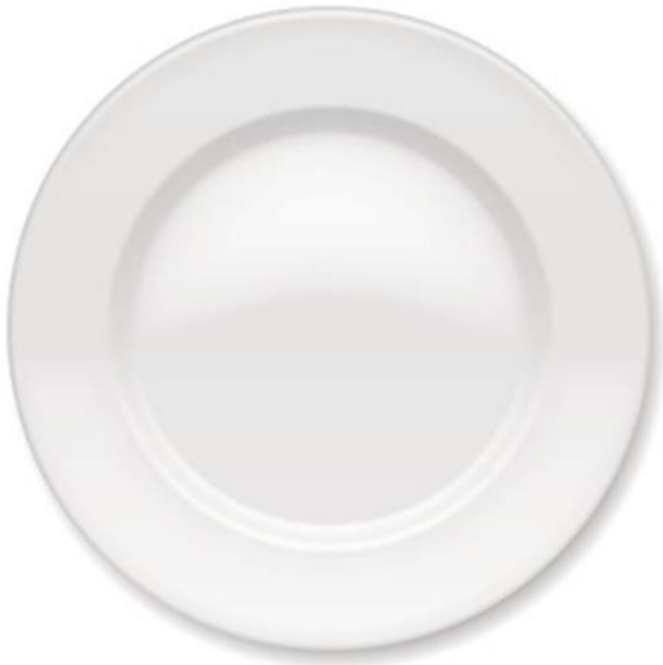


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When you fast, **do not look sombre** as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.



But **when** you (yourself) fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to **your Father**, who is unseen; and **your Father**, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



It is unlikely that you will die if you miss a meal or two in order to focus on God's purposes.

No!

Yes!

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2: 11 - 14

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A relationship with God

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.

God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

