

Trinity Bible Church
 March 28, 2012
 Lesson 36

Dispensational Transitions

- I. From the Dispersion into Babylon to the close of the Old Testament
- II. Between the Testaments.
- III. The New Testament World.
 10. The Sermon on the Mount.
 - Q. No Parading of Good Deeds. Matt 6:1-18
 1. The Bottom Line. Matt 6:1
 2. Example 1: Giving. Matt 6:2-4
 3. Example 2: Prayer. Matt 6:5-15 (The Lord's Prayer)
 4. Example 3: Fasting. Matt 6:16-18

Matt 6:1 = The Summary Statement

L.T. = "Pay attention to not do your righteousness before the face of the men for the purpose of being beheld by them; if you do such you will absolutely not have a reward alongside your father who is in the heavens.

Matt 6:2-4 = Giving: Don't Seek Honor from Men

L.T. = "When therefore you are giving alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites are doing in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be glorified by men. Truly, I am saying to all of you, They have their reward. (3) "But when you are giving alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. (4) that your alms may be in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt 6:5 = Prayer: Principle #1: Not For Show

L.T. = "And when you all may be praying, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they have a warm love for taking their stand to pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, In order to be a shining to the men. Truly I say to you, they received from *men* their reward *in full*.

Summary:

1. This "shining" could be angelic, so they want to look like a messenger from God. Matt 1:20
2. Or "starlike," so they want to be a "sign in the heavens." Matt 2:7
3. Or like a constellation indicating they are part of an important group and not the masses. Matt 24:30
4. Or even "Messiah-like," that they are the saviors of Israel. John 1:5
5. Whatever the motivation, it is only for a short time and has no good lasting results. Jas 4:14
6. Real "shining" by rejecting the world's system. Phil 2:14-16

Key Point: Part of the function of a new dispensation is to correct distortions of God's Word from the previous one.

Matt 6:6 = Principle #2: Just Let God Know

L.T. = But you, when you may pray, go into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Summary:

1. The inner room denotes a place of privacy. Matt 24:26
2. It also can denote a place where goods are stored. Luke 12:24
3. Instruction about Jesus is often done in a private place, but it is not to be kept private. Luke 12:3
4. Jesus is saying that prayer is between you and God, even when done in public.
5. In light of the fact that Jesus has been correcting actions that lack good motives, do you think he was referring to establishing a literal "prayer closet" or going into the "inner room of the soul"?

Principle: Righteous prayer is more interested in bringing issues before the "face of God" than the "face of men."

Principle: Seeking to impress men with one's prayers is the wrong motivation.

Matt 6:7 = Principle #3: Not Formulas.

L.T. = "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

Summary:

1. God does not consider our words for the:
 - A. Number.
 - B. Verbalization.
 - C. Sound.
 - D. Pronunciation.
 - E. Volume.
 - F. Complexity.
 - G. Beauty.
 - H. Clarity.
 - I. Language.
 - J. Brilliance.
2. He evidently looks at the heart.

Principle: Don't try to impress Him, just be humbled by Him.

Principle: Don't try to manipulate Him, just submit to Him.

Matt 6:8 = Principle #4: Just Faith

L.T. = "Therefore may you not be like them (the Gentiles), for your Father knows the things you have need, before you humbly ask Him.

Summary:

1. Followers of the true God are not to pray like pagans who pray to false gods and idols.
2. Even though He already knows our requests we are to humbly ask. Matt 7:7-8
3. Answered prayer is connected to our relationship with Him. John 15:7
4. He is able to do more than we can ask or even imagine. Eph 3:20-21
5. We must humbly ask and have faith in His answer. Jas 1:5-6
6. Often prayers are not answered because of selfish motives. Jas 4:2-4
7. God will answer prayer in accordance with His will. 1 Jn 5:14-15

Principle: Attitude should precede the action of prayer.