



# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING MATTHEW

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## Monday - Matthew 6:1-8 - Giving & Prayer

Jesus takes it for granted that all who call themselves His disciples will give to those in need. He assumes they will be giving to others, the only thing He deals with is how they do it. How many are rich towards themselves but poor towards God. How many never give much of anything to help another. Are these people truly acting like Christians? A giving Saviour should have giving disciples.

Christ also takes it for granted that all who call themselves His disciples will pray. He assumes this and only gives directions for the best way of praying. Prayerless people are not genuine Christians. It is not enough to join in the prayers of the congregation on Sundays, there must be private prayer also. Without this, we are just participating in routine religion.

In giving, everything like a big show or song-and-dance should be disliked and avoided. We are not to give as if we want everyone to see how generous we are and praise us for it. We are to give quietly and make as little noise as possible about it.

In praying we should seek to be alone with God. We should try to find a place to pray where we can pour out our hearts with the feeling that no one is looking at us but God. It can be hard to find a place and time to be totally alone, but it is something we should really work at doing.

In all we do, whether giving or praying, the great thing to remember is that we are dealing with a heart-searching and all-knowing God. He pays no attention to the amount of money we give or the number of words we use; the one thing at which His all-seeing eye looks is our motive and our heart.

## Questions

1. What does Jesus take for granted?
2. How should we give to others?
2. What do we need to remember about God as we give and pray?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would help you to obey from a heart of love for Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5

**Praise: Psalm 124 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

## Tuesday - Matthew 6:9-15 - The Lord's Prayer

We are not to pray to saints and angels, but to the everlasting Father, the Lord of heaven and earth. We are His children and can call Him Father only by faith in Christ and union with Him. The "name" of God refers to all His characteristics - His power, wisdom, holiness, justice, mercy, and truth. By asking that they be "hallowed," we are asking that these characteristics of God be made known and glorified.

By God's kingdom we mean the kingdom of grace that God sets up and maintains in the hearts of all who believe in Christ - in other words we are praying that men and women will come to faith in Christ and grow in that faith, we are talking about the true invisible Church being built here on earth. But the kingdom also refers to the kingdom of glory which shall one day be set up when Christ comes the second time. This is the time when sin, sorrow, and Satan shall be cast out of the world.

We pray that God's laws may be obeyed by men as perfectly, readily, and unceasingly as they are obeyed by angels in heaven. We are taught in this prayer that we are completely dependent upon God for everything, and we should ask Him to take care of us and provide for us what we need. We confess that we are sinners every day and need daily pardon and forgiveness. We cannot expect our prayers for forgiveness to be heard, however, if we cannot forgive others. We are taught that we are liable at all times to go astray and fall. This teaches us to confess our weakness and ask God to hold us up and keep us from running into sin. We ask God to deliver us from the evil that is in the world, the evil that is in our own hearts, and not least from the evil one, the devil. It is about us, and within us, and around us on every side, and we ask God, who alone can preserve us, to deliver us from its power.

### Questions

1. Why can we call God our Father?
2. What is the kingdom of God?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that the kingdom of God would be built here on earth.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

**Praise: Psalm 125 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

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### **Wednesday - Matthew 6:16-24 - Treasure**

Fasting is a practice frequently mentioned in the Bible and generally connected with prayer. It seems to be left to everyone's discretion whether he will fast or not. One thing only must never be forgotten, those who fast should do it quietly, secretly, and without show. Our faith should make us cheerful. Men and women should see that having a relationship with Christ makes us happy. Are we upset with what Christ has done for us? Surely not! Then we shouldn't look as if we were. We don't walk around with fake smiles, but there should be an obvious, genuine joy in our life.

Worldliness, or laying up treasures on earth instead of heaven, is one of the greatest dangers we face. It seems so harmless to seek our happiness in this world, so long as we keep clear of open sins. It can be so easy to make things or people or circumstances our priority, to lay up treasure on earth and forget about heaven. Where are our hearts? What do we love best? What has first place in our life? What do we treasure most? Life or death depends on the answer we can give to these questions. If our treasure is earthly, our hearts will be earthly also.

Singleness of purpose is a great secret of spiritual growth. If we try to work for two different masters, we are sure to give satisfaction to neither. We cannot serve Christ and the world at the same time. God must be king over our hearts; His Word, His desires must get our first attention. Then, and only then, will everything else fall into its right place. Unless our hearts have Christ in the right place, everything else will just be a mess. Thousands of Christians are dissatisfied, uncomfortable, and unhappy, and they have no idea why, but it's because they are trying to please God and please man, to serve Christ and the world at the same time. Don't make this mistake. Put Christ first, with all your heart, mind, and strength.

#### **Questions**

1. Why should we be cheerful?
2. How do we lay up treasure in heaven?

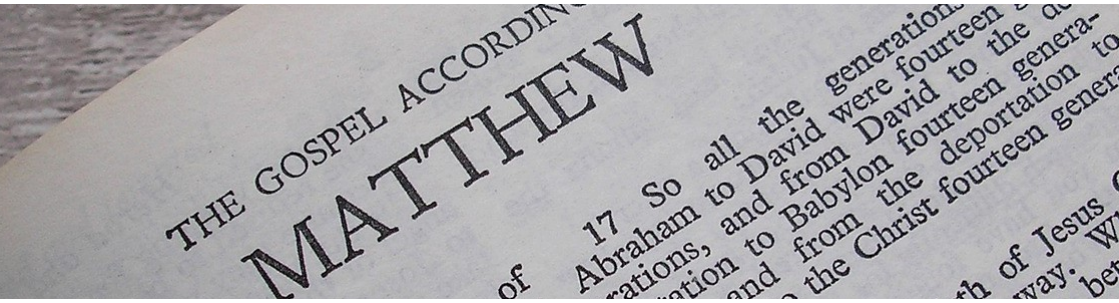
#### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that Christ would help you lay up treasure in heaven.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

#### **Memory Verse**

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

**Praise:** Psalm 126 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.



# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

## Thursday - Matthew 6:25-34 - Worry

Our Lord Jesus Christ knows our hearts. He knows that we excuse worldliness by arguing that we can't help but be worried about the things of this life. Don't we have families to look after? How are we going to care for them if we put God first? Jesus gives us the answer. He forbids us to keep worrying about the things of this world. Wise provision for the future is right, but soul-destroying worry is wrong. Christ reminds us of the providential care that God continually takes of everything that He has made. If He has given you life, He certainly has the power to provide for you.

Jesus points out the uselessness of worry. Our life is in God's hand; all the worry in the world will not keep us going a minute past the time God has appointed for us to die. We can't add one hour to our lives, and we won't die till the work God has given us is done. The same God who looks after the birds and the flowers is the Father of all believers. He does not neglect His creation, and He will not neglect His children. Jesus points out that worry is unworthy of a Christian. Unbelievers live for the present, they worry, and they know nothing of a heavenly Father. But a Christian should be full of faith and contentment. When we have troubles in our life, we shouldn't be worrying as though we have no God.

Christ gives us a promise as a remedy against worry. He assures us that if we seek first the things of God, everything that we really need in this world will be given to us. Knowing this, we should focus on our work for today and leave tomorrow's worries to tomorrow. We may die before tomorrow, we don't know what will happen, but one thing we do know, that if tomorrow brings a problem or trouble, He who sends it can and will send grace to bear it.

### Questions

1. Why should we not worry?
2. What is a cure for worrying?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the care God takes of you everyday.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

**Praise: Psalm 127 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

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## Friday - Matthew 7:1-11 - Judging & Asking

The first section of these verses is one of the most abused and misapplied passages in all of Scripture. When Jesus says, "Judge not," He doesn't mean it's wrong to rebuke the sins and faults of others until we are perfect and faultless ourselves. This would contradict other parts of Scripture, it would make it impossible to condemn false teaching, and it would keep anyone from ever being a minister or a judge. What Jesus is talking about here is a critical and fault-finding spirit. A readiness to blame others, a habit of passing rash and hasty judgements, an attitude that exaggerates the mistakes and weaknesses of our neighbours and makes the worst of them - this is what Christ forbids. It was common among the Pharisees, and it is common today. We must watch against it. We should believe all things and hope all things about others, and be very slow to find fault.

We need to be wise in how and when and to whom we speak about Christ. It's not always the right person or the right time. Sometimes, it can actually make things worse by driving them into even more stubborn behaviour against God. However, we're far more likely to err on the side of caution than of zeal; we tend to keep silent more than speak. But we should also look at our own lives - have we stopped people from giving us good advice by being irritable, impatient, or proud? How often have we been pigs over the pearls of others?

Jesus holds out the fullest promise to those who pray. God is ready to hear our prayers. Parents will not neglect their children, how much more will a God of love and mercy listen to His children. There is nothing so simple and so effective as praying, but sadly we are so slow to do it. It is not useless, it will bear fruit, when we seek, we will find.

## Questions

1. What kind of judging is Jesus talking about?
2. What does Christ promise about our praying?

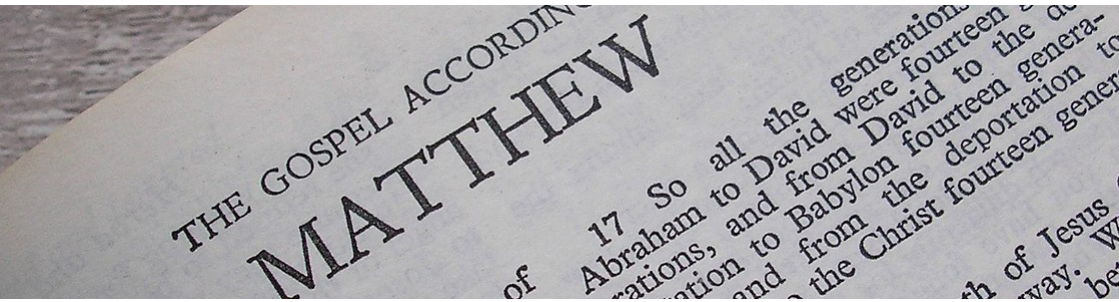
## Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would enable you to pray more.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

**Praise: Psalm 128 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



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### **Saturday - Matthew 7:12-20 - The Two Gates**

Christ lays down a general principle for our guidance in all dealings with men and women. We are not to deal with others as others deal with us; we are to deal with others as we would like others to deal with us - this is real Christianity. This does not just forbid all petty hates and revenge, all cheating and overreaching, it does much more. It settles a hundred difficult points, which in a world like this are continually arising between man and man; it prevents the necessity of laying down endless little rules for our behaviour in specific cases. It gives us one principle to use in all we do.

Jesus warns us that the way to eternal life is narrow with few on it. The way to Hell is wide and full of people. If your life doesn't make you stand out from the crowd as a Christian, if it's hard to tell the difference between you and everyone else, if you're going through the motions, hoping for the best, you're on a wide and easy road to destruction. But if you're unpopular for the stand you take, if people think you're a bit odd or naive, if they can't understand why you take this 'God stuff' seriously, don't be discouraged - the road has always been narrow and unpopular.

Christ warns us against false teachers in the church. We must be prepared for them and be on our guard. Thousands are ready to believe anything a religious leader tells them. They forget that men are sinners, and their teaching should be checked against the Bible to see if it agrees. The best safe-guard against false teaching is the regular study of the Word of God with prayer. The Bible was given to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It's when we neglect it that we become easy prey to the first false teacher we hear.

### **Questions**

1. How are we to deal with other people?
2. What is the best safe-guard against false teaching?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

### **Memory Verse**

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

**Praise: Psalm 129 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced  
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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