

Study Guide
Matthew 6:1-18
The Kingdom Has Come!

1. Take a couple of minutes to quickly scan Matthew 5.
 1. How is Jesus trying to shake the people awake from their cultural coma?
 2. How is he reframing their system of ethics?

2. Read Matthew 6:1
 - How can you restate this as a positive statement?
 - What's at stake? What is the risk of getting this wrong?

3. The Big idea for Matthew 6: "Motives spring from the condition of the heart. God wants our whole heart."
 1. How is this idea both simple and complex?

4. Read Matthew 6:2-8 and 16-18 and look at the narrative cycle in Jesus' speech:
 - Which ideas, words, or phrases are repeated?
 - Which ideas, words, or phrases are in contrast with one another?
 - Are there any words that stand out to you as particularly powerful? Why?
 - Where is Jesus' use of hyperbole? Why do you think he speaks this way?
 - What are some things that Jesus assumes about his original audience?

5. Jesus is declaring:
 - a. Hypocrisy is an easy trap, both deceptive and dangerous
 - b. The unseen God sees your heart
 - c. Rewards are given by the audience.

Unpack the implications of these statements.

6. How is this text an attack on human pride?
7. How is Jesus' "wake-up call" connected to the core of the gospel message?
8. Close in prayer: Use Matthew 6:9-13 as a framework for re-centering our motives

Message Slides

TITLE SLIDE

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Matthew 5 review

- Jesus is declaring what life should be like for his disciples. He is shaking them awake from their cultural coma.
- Jesus is radically reframing a system of ethics, using a God-sized measuring stick
- Jesus exposes the fuller meaning what God wants from his people

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Matthew 5 in three words: “Check your definitions.”

Matthew 6 in three words: “Check your motivations.”

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Big idea: Motives spring from the condition of the heart. God wants our whole heart.

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Matthew 6:1

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

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Matthew 6:2-4

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 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.”

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Matthew 6: 5-8

“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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you 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. 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.”

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Matthew 6:16-18

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others 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.”

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Image: Matthew 6 marked -up

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What is Jesus declaring?

1. Hypocrisy is an easy trap

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Big idea: Motives spring from the condition of the heart. God wants our whole heart.

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What is Jesus declaring?

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The Essence of Pure Motives

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’