

[1] (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1959), 178.)

[2] <https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-did-jesus-mean-when-he-said-to-store-up-treasures-in-heaven/>

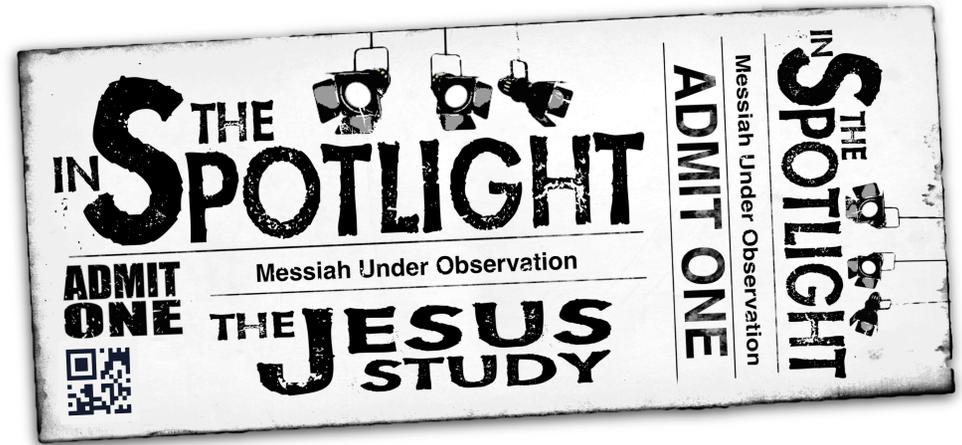
If You Want to Know More:

A. Scriptures (parallel Gospel accounts)

1. Luke 6:17-26
2. Luke 11: 2-4, 34-36
3. Luke 12: 22-31

Next Week: "More Do's and Don'ts"

...two choices...one decision at a time.



LESSON 6

“BEWARE!”

Matthew 6

Focus Scriptures:

Matthew 6: 21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6: 33

“But seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Food for Thought:

How important is it for you to be recognized, or revered?

*Heavenly treasure-seeking moves us in the direction of material modesty and single-minded fidelity to the Lord. In *The Cost of Discipleship*, martyred German theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned about the “thralldom of material things.”^[1] Thralldom being : the state of being under the control of another person, bondage, slavery. The more things we have, the more our things seem to have us.*

We start to organize our lives around them and spend money to maintain them. Bonhoeffer explains that hoarding is idolatry. It puts something other than God at the center of our lives.^[2]

Brief Historical And /Or Cultural Context:

This chapter deals with the first century Jewish practices of public giving, public praying, and public fasting, (religious exhibitionism) aimed at receiving high praise from others. Jesus is building on what he taught in chapter 5, the “spirit” of the law, he now will deconstruct the power of public piety.

Vocabulary Definitions:

Alms: ἐλεημοσύνη (el-eh-ay-mos-oo'-nay); **mercy, pity**

Empty words, vain repetitions (Matt 6:7):

βατταλογέω (battalogéō) **to stammer, to speak idly.**

Righteous: δίκαιος (dik'-ah-yos); **equitable** (in character or act); by implication-**rendered innocent, free, holy**—just, meet, right(-eous)

Mammon: μαμωνᾶς, (mam-mo-nas') **confidence, i.e. wealth personified.** Or "**the treasure a person trusts in**" or Aramaic, related to the Hebrew term 'aman "**to trust,**" (J. Thayer).

Mammonas, i.e. avarice (deified).

WORD NERD: MAMMON - Of Semitic origin; Mammon came from a Hebrew verb meaning "to entrust" or "to place in someone's keeping." As time went by, the meaning of mammon shifted from the passive sense of "that which is entrusted" to the active sense of "that in which one trusts." When that happened, the word originally spelled with a small "m" came to be spelled with a capital "M," as designating a god. Medieval Theologians assigned names to the 7 Deadly Sins, and gave the name “Mammon” to the sin of Avarice (extreme greed).

WORD NERD: GREEK GRAMMAR- verbs - to Give, to Forgive, to Bring, or to Lead (into), are 2nd person singular, and can be read with the “YOU understood” i.e. [You] give us, [You] forgive, [You] bring or [You] lead. Is it a demand of God? Or is it a statement of faith and truth?

LESSON:

SETTING THE SCENE:

Review the settings for Jesus' sermons

SCRIPT: Read Matthew 6

1. Which "righteous practices" are covered in this portion of his sermon?
2. What is the reward for each practice, as defined by Jesus?
Fill in the chart for each practice (see insert)
3. To which two "masters" is Jesus referring in vs. 24?
4. What rewards come from each master?
5. What is the opposite of "worry?"
6. What might be the "Think Differently" nugget in verses 25-34?

Re-read Matthew 6:9-11 using the "You, understood"

1. What comes to mind when heard in this context
2. How might this interpretation agree or disagree with what we already know about God's nature?
3. For you personally, does this interpretation lead toward faith in God, or fear of God?

Re-read Matthew 6:22-23

1. What are functions of the eye & brain?
2. In light of eye/brain function, what might this metaphor mean to you?

REVIEW:

1. What does practicing righteousness look like in the world's systems? What does practicing righteousness look like in God's system?
2. What has Jesus revealed to you about God's character in Matthew 6?

RIGHTEOUS PRACTICE		REWARD	RIGHTEOUS PRACTICE		REWARD
STRIVING					
FASTING					
PRAYING II					
PRAYING I					
GIVING					

THINK DIFFERENTLY - THINK DIFFERENTLY - THINK DIFFERENTLY