

UPPER ROOM SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Living the Life of the Beloved/Belonging: Matthew 5-7

Pastor Jim Otte

Spring-Summer, 2018

Lesson 16 – (July 1, 2018) Matthew 6:16-23

Lessons from Last Week:

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- a. **“if you forgive other people when they sin” – (“paraptoma”) – “slipping across the line”** – when others impulsively or temporarily lose control of what they say or do to you; unintentional offense; offense in the heat of the moment.
- b. **“if you forgive...do not forgive...your Father will...”** – Just as the flow of God’s grace from Him to you, ought to flow from you to others...so forgiveness is an outgrowth of that grace!
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #33:** God’s forgiveness of you is an event; your forgiveness of others may be a _____ over time. This can be accomplished by:
 - a. Inviting the other person to tell you his/her reasons for the slip up.
 - b. Being open to understanding or giving positive benefit of the doubt.
 - c. Refusing to brood or constantly replay the offense over and over.
 - d. Praying for the other person and treat him/her with kindness in your thoughts, words, and deeds.
 - e. Reminding yourself: *“And I forgave him/her.”*
 - f. Establishing a “Redemption Plan” for trust to be restored incrementally

Matthew 6:16-18

¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

- a. **“When you fast, do not look somber...to show others”**
 - a. Fasting was the *‘third rail’* of Jewish spirituality.

- b. The practice of fasting had been corrupted over time to become self-serving:
 - i. Drawing the attention of God to reward the fasting person.
 - ii. Proving that the penitence is real.
 - iii. Attempting to manipulate God by being obedient to His will

b. “oil...wash your face, so that it will not be obvious”

a. Drawing on previous verse’s use of “secret,” Jesus reminds you of your vulnerability to fasting for the wrong motive: self-worship.

b. The Beloved Life Principle #34: Self-worship can be easily _____ by the pursuit of others’ admiration or the pity of other people.

Matthew 6:19-24

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

a. “Do not store up treasures on earth”

a. “store up” (literally: *“Do not lay up treasures for your treasures”*) – remembered; devoted to; pursuing; setting priorities to acquire and build security around

b. “treasures” (thysauros) – Jesus cautions you to be discerning about what you treasure.

i. Earthly treasures are subject to theft or decay.

ii. Acquiring & holding on to earthly treasures, in order to feel secure, can delude you into thinking your spiritual treasures are of secondary importance.

iii. Luke 12:16-21. *Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”” ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”*

iv. The Beloved Life Principle #35: Earthly security is no substitute for _____ security.

- b. **“moths and rust”**
 - a. In the East, part of a person’s wealth was tied up in his fine and elaborate clothing.
 - b. **“rust”** (brosis) – eating away; could be vermin or decay. Part of a person’s wealth in agrarian societies was in his grain barns
 - c. **“thieves break in and steal”**
 - a. Money or gold was often secreted inside the walls of homes.
 - b. Thieves dug through the walls, from the outside, stealing the hoard.
 - d. **“But...treasures in heaven”**
 - a. Devout Jews believed that their good works, sincerely done on earth, stored up rewards in heaven.
 - e. **“treasure...heart will be also.”**
 - a. Jesus links the **“treasure”** with the **“heart.”**
 - b. **“Heart”** (kardia) – the grounded center (gut) of your attitudes, thoughts, from which came your priorities, decisions, and actions (and their consequences).
 - i. ***Luke 6:45.*** *A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #36:** One way to discern your “treasure” is to gauge how much _____ you spend on it when it’s threatened!

²² **“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are single (minded) your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

- a. **“The eye is the lamp”**
 - i. Your point of view toward God, yourself, and other people
 - ii. Your point of view will guide how you treat your relationships
- b. **“single (minded)/evil...light/darkness”**
 - i. “single” (haplous) – liberality in generosity.
 - ii. “evil” (poneros) – begrudgingly stingy
- c. **“light within you is darkness”**
 - i. If what shines in you is a lack of generosity, your view (“sight”) of life will be distorted