

July 7, 2024 "Matthew 6:1-4" Rick Raines rraines@fairmountcc.org

Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount that <u>life in His Kingdom</u> will be different.

In Chapter 5, we looked at several attitudinal and moral components to Kingdom life.

In Chapter 6, we turn to **religious expression** in Kingdom life.

Jesus says quite a bit about giving, prayer, and fasting.

What does Jesus say about giving?

Matthew 6:1-4

"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. 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."

- Giving is not optional.
- Giving addresses <u>needs</u>.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

- Giving is not for <u>recognition</u>.
- Giving results in **blessing**.

<u>2 Corinthians 9:6-11</u>

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This week, I will ______