

# The Sermon On The Mount v2

Lesson 12  
Benevolence, prayer and fasting  
that please God  
Mat 6:1-18

## Enemies

1. Their wrong tradition about enemies
2. The Law and Jesus taught to do good toward (love) your enemies
3. The gospel teaches we must do good toward (love) our enemies

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## Introduction

- Jesus warns about having the proper motive when we practice righteousness, doing right before God
- God must be our focus as we give to the needy, pray, fast and do any righteous act revealed by God's Word
- Doing right to please God will bring an eternal reward while seeking to practice righteousness to be seen by others will only bring a temporary reward

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## Introduction

- Although we focus on these three actions, they are illustrative of our motive for serving God
- Seeking to please men and be rewarded by them will prevent us from receiving eternal life

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## Beware of Practicing Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By Men

- The hypocrites are those who do righteous acts only to be seen and rewarded by others who praise them for how righteous they are
- The scribes and Pharisees had turned giving alms, praying and fasting into hypocritical acts to gain praise from others to honor themselves not to please God

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## Beware of Practicing Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By Men

Mat 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Mat 6:2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

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## Beware of Practicing Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By Men

Mat 6:5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

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## Beware of Practicing Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By Men

Mat 6:7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

Mat 6:8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

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## Beware of Practicing Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By Men

Mat 6:16 "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

- The one who pleases God does righteous acts in order to please and honor God and one day be eternally rewarded by Him
- We serve God before men but not for the purpose of men exalting us as righteous
- Pleasing God must be at the heart of all our actions to serve Him seeking His heavenly reward above all

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Col 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Col 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 6:3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Mat 6:4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

2Co 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,

2Co 8:4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

2Co 8:5 and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

2Co 9:6 Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 6:6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Mat 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 6:10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11 'Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Mat 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 18:29 "So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

Mat 18:30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

Mat 18:31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 18:32 "Then summoning him, his lord \*said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Mat 18:33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Mat 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 6:17 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face

Mat 6:18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 9:14 Then the disciples of John \*came to Him, asking, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"

Mat 9:15 And Jesus said to them, "The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Mat 9:16 "But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results.

Mat 9:17 "Nor do *people* put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Act 14:21 After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

Act 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

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## Practice Righteousness To Please and Be Rewarded By God

Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

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## Benevolence, Prayer and Fasting That Please God

1. Beware of practicing righteousness to please and be rewarded by men
2. Practice righteousness to please and be rewarded by God

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