

# FELLOWSHIP NOTES

Reaching People for Christ  
and  
Helping believers grow to be like Him

## City On A Hill

Part # 6

3. Your reverence for your Heavenly Father should be expressed in terms like, "\_\_\_\_\_ kingdom come"
4. In heaven, God's will is kept to the perfection. On earth, He has allowed man the choice to follow God's will or reject it. You can show your submission to His will by praying, "\_\_\_\_\_ will be done on \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in heaven."
5. You can declare your complete trust in Him by praying, "give us \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ bread." not asking for a month's supply.
6. Have your prayer expressed reliance on His forgiving grace for the sins of yesterday by asking something like this "Forgive \_\_\_\_\_ our debts, as we also have \_\_\_\_\_ our debtors."
7. You should express your dependence on His guidance for tomorrow "And lead us not into temptation, but \_\_\_\_\_ us from the evil one."

### Friday:

#### **The activity of Fasting:** Matthew 16-18 (NIV)

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, 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 men 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."

1. What do you benefit from fasting done as a display of being super spiritual? (Matthew 6:16)

2. Who is the only one who needs to know that you are fasting? (Matthew 6:17) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Immediately after His baptism, Jesus went out into the desert where He could be alone to plan His ministry. For forty days and nights he "fasted". It sounds like an impossibility to us, but what does it indicate about His level of concern for understanding the Father's plan for His ministry? Matthew 4:1-2 (NIV)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. [2] After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

4. How intense is your desire to know God's plan for your life and to identify the ministry that He has for you?

5. Fasting is normally thought of as refraining from food. Are there other things, however, that you might need to put in second place for a while until you can more clearly focus on the things of God?

6. What have you learned about boasting of religious and church activities that you do?

True Christianity should make a difference in all areas of your life. Jesus presented God's plan to build a life that would make that difference. A group of these people should then commit together as a church to make a difference in that community.

He used the analogies of salt and light. Salt changes the way food tastes and light makes it possible for people to see what they are doing. Then he challenged his audience that this changed life should be as visible as a "city on a hill".

In the Beatitudes, He outlined the life that God will bless. He continued by reminding them that you can not earn a right-relationship with God by rule keeping. He pointed out that God related to man through "grace" which is an undeserved favor or gift that God chooses to give man through Christ.

In this study of Matthew 6:1-18 we will examine Jesus' teachings about our actions. He is challenging the religious activities that had been put in place by the Pharisees. They were biblical principles, but the method of practicing them were not God's design. These practices were creations of the Pharisees and a distortion of God's intent. We will examine giving, praying and fasting.

### Monday:

#### **Principles of practice:** Matthew 6:1 (NIV)

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

#### 1. Motivation Matters:

- a. If you are being good to please a family member, from where will come your motivation for right choices if the family member is not present to see it? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How can you adapt David's advice to Solomon to become the motives for your "acts of righteousness"? 1 Chronicles 28:9 (NIV)

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If

you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

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- c. In whom should you want to invest you life? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Can you deceive God about the motive for your actions? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Rewards count:

Don't start trying to tell God what rewards you expect for service rendered. If you do, you will short change yourself and also be greatly disappointed. Rewards for serving God reflect His awesome creativity that only His perspective can initiate.

- a. What happens to inner struggles when you can serve God and leave the results to His care? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How will obedient serve, leaving the results to Him, give you more energy and time to enjoy even more opportunities  
t o s e r v e ?

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- c. What is the key ingredient that is required to relate to God in this fashion? Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

## Tuesday:

### The Activity of Giving: Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)

*"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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. [3] But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

1. God desires from you benevolent and noble acts of kindness and generosity toward the needy. What is of equal or more importance to Him than the simple fact that you give? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your motive for giving is very important to God. What improper motive do you have to guard against being the stimulation for your giving? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus outlined a proper motive to replace motives driven by selfishness, pride, ego, and the recognition of other people. What is the God approved motive for giving? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When your giving is motivated by pleasing and honoring God, does that mean you just give to anyone who comes asking? What are God's guidelines? 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NIV)  
*For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." [11] We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. [12] Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.*

## Wednesday:

### The Activity of Praying:

#### **What Prayer should not be:** Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

*"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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. [6] 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. [7] And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. [8] Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

1. Jesus taught "do not be like the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. Whom did the "hypocrites" want to see them praying? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. When the objective of your praying is to be seen by other people then who is the audience to whom your are speaking? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. From whom will your reward come for praying: the people you wanted impress or from God to whom you never spoke? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Prayer should be a conversation between you and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. List the content of your prayers:
  - a. Do you advise God on every detail that He needs to do or do you seek the leadership of His Holy Spirit for the content of that prayer time? Romans 8:26 (NIV)  
*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*
  - b. Do you repeat the same request day after day after day, or have you allowed God to mature your thinking of the subject? Although the same basic subject may still be the concern of your heart, do you allow God to lead you through details and give you His perspective? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jesus taught that there was a second group that you should not imitate. Do not "keep on babbling like \_\_\_\_\_"  
You do not need to keep on babbling like pagans because "your Father knows what you \_\_\_\_\_ before you ask him."

## Thursday:

### **What Prayer should be:** Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

*"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, [10] your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us today our daily bread. [12] Forgive us our debts, as we also have for given our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'*

1. Your relationship with God should be "Our \_\_\_\_\_"
2. You can know God is sovereign because He is "Our Father in \_\_\_\_\_"