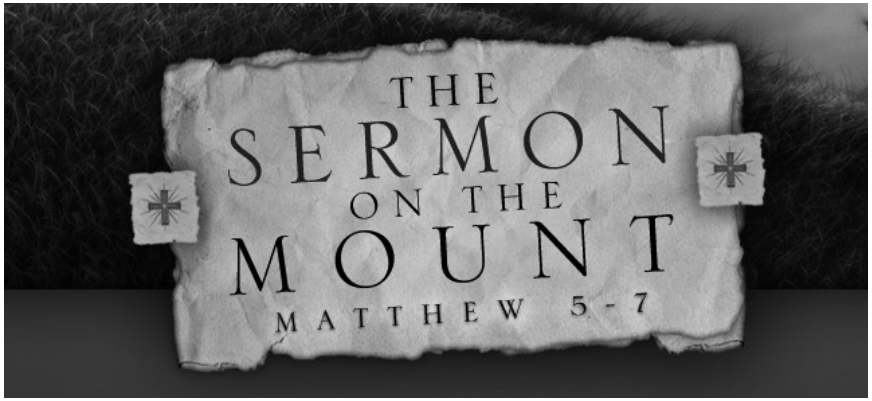

Sunday, July 4th, 2010 • Matthew 6:1-8

How to give and pray in a way that pleases the Father. This week we will focus primarily on Jesus' teaching about giving in a way that pleases the Father.

Observation

What does the text say?

1. (6:1) The first verse of Ch. 6 states the general proposition. Then in 6:2-18 Jesus gives three examples of how the proposition should work out in three areas of piety. What are those three areas of piety?
2. (6:1-18) What two elements do Jesus' instructions in each of these three areas have in common?

Interpretation

What does the text mean?

1. What chief sin do these three commands address? What is the legitimate human need that this chief sin perverts?
2. (6:3) What does the phrase mean, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing"? Is Jesus speak literally or figuratively? How can you tell?
3. Giving to the needy is often neglected among evangelical Christians. Read the following verses from the Old and New Testaments, and then write a short paragraph telling us what you have learned, and how it affected you. Leviticus 19:15; 1 Samuel 2:7; Psalm 10:14; 12:5; 35:10; 72:12-14; 82:3-4; 107:9; 146:7; Proverbs 13:23; 14:20-21; 14:31; 19:17; 19:22; 21:13; 22:2; 22:9; 23:21; 28:19; Ecclesiastes 5:8; Isaiah 11:4; Jeremiah 22:16; Ezekiel 16:49; Matthew 25:42, 45; Mark 12:43-44; Mark 14:7; Luke 4:18; and James 2:5.
4. Defend or rebut the following proposition: "We should support our government's activities in seeking to take care of the very poorest. To do so is a way of carrying out the spirit of the Bible."

Application

What Does It Mean to Me?

1. Which common church fundraising techniques break the principle that Jesus teaches in 6:1?
2. Is it wrong to give a testimony on how tithing has blessed you?
3. How does Jesus' teaching on giving to the needy confront you and your attitudes toward your own self-worth, giving, and toward the needy? What will you do differently as a result?

Message Notes

Print out this outline and consider additional notes or questions from the message this Sunday.