

Matthew 6

King James Version (KJV)

6 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. (These are people who put on a show in front of others; to brag about how generous they are to the church. They put on a show to glorify themselves. That is the only reward that they will receive)

(If you are going to give, then give secretly and humbly and receive God's blessings)

²Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (hypocrites = stage actors, play actors) (Their inflated ego and self pride is their reward. God won't give them any more reward)

³But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth. (A gift to God is a private affair between you and God)

⁴That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

⁵And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (hypocrites = play actors; looking so holy before other people)

⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Don't put on a show for others when you pray to God. God knows your thoughts. You don't even have to pray out loud)

⁷But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. (This refers to chanting prayers, written by other people; repetitiously, over and over; as the Muslims do) 1Kings-18:25-26

⁸Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (Pray to the Father. Jesus was God in the flesh. HE was just a part of the Father Himself; not His "son" as many people teach. Jesus said – If you've seen me, you've seen the Father)

Genesis-1:26-28 (God said Let us make man in our image. He made the flesh body we know as Jesus; and we made our flesh bodies)

NOTE: (This prayer was not meant to be repeated word for word. It was just an example. When you pray, talk to God in your own words. Don't repeat someone else's words)

¹⁰Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (Pray that God's will be done; not yours)

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. (In the Greek manuscripts, this is a unique saying that is reminiscent of the manna that the Israelites received every day in the wilderness)

(Spiritually, the manna from God today, is His Word, taught to us every day)

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (debts = faults or trespasses against God) (debtors = those who do us wrong)

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (evil = the evil one <Satan> – Septuagint translation)

1Corinthians-10:13 (There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it)

¹⁴For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (This also means to forgive yourself when you make a mistake. You are not better than anyone else. We all make mistakes)

¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Treat others as you want to be treated)

¹⁶Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

(They indulge in self-pity – suffering for God's sake. They put on an ego-boosting show to get sympathy and adoration from other people. That is their only reward. They'll receive nothing more from God)

¹⁷ But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;
(If you choose to fast as an offering to God, don't look like a victim to get sympathy or adoration from people. If you offer anything to God, do it gladly and gratefully; and keep it to yourself)

¹⁸ That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. (God doesn't ask us to fast. Some people do it in repentance for their sins. It was common in the days of this writing)

Amos-8:11 (Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD)

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
Ecclesiastes-1&2 (All material things of this world are emptiness and vanity. None of it will last. However if God blesses you with wealth, accept it humbly and gratefully. Enjoy your blessings and thank God for them)

²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (Your good works here on earth will be your reward in Heaven)

²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Keep your eye on the real prize – eternal life with God in the Third Age)

²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. (single = clear, bright) (The eye mirrors the soul. You can see it in people – light or dark)

²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! (The darkness keeps you from seeing the truth. You won't understand anything that Jesus taught. Instead you will prefer to follow the corrupt ways of the world)

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (mammon = riches or wealth that were not earned honestly - ill gotten gains)

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? (thought = worry – better translation) (Plan your life properly. Don't waste time worrying about what might happen)

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? (God feeds His animals. He provides for us also. We are far more valuable in God's eyes than the animals)

²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? (Worrying won't add one second to your life. Instead, worrying will make your life miserable)

²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: (People are way too pre-occupied with the way that they look – how well off they appear to others. That is ego working on them)

NOTE: (People don't appreciate snobs who go out of their way to look better than those around them. Dress neatly and modestly. Use proper hygiene to stay healthy and be happy with your blessings. Happiness is contagious. People will see your joy. It will make their day better as well)

²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (In his later years, Solomon also realized this. He wrote about it in the Book of Proverbs. Maybe, he realized the error of his ways. He was so over-indulgent that he ended up showing us what not to do with wealth)

NOTE: (Today, we see that same over-indulgence from billionaires. They never have enough. They are as pathetic as Solomon became. No one needs that much wealth, while others around them go hungry. It's despicable)

³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? (Have faith in God and you'll pull through)

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (Gentiles - these are the nations of unbelievers and the heathen. They think that this short life is all that they have. They are ignorant of what is waiting for us after we die)

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Make an effort to find it, and God will reward you)

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Take care of today, and don't worry about tomorrow. There is enough evil in the world. Do your best to live righteously today, and God will bless your tomorrows)