

LIVE BEFORE GOD

Matthew 6:1-18

Key Verse: 6:9b,10

1. Read verses 1-4. What is an "act of righteousness"? Why is it so called? What is the "act of righteousness" mentioned in these verses? Should this "act" be done? If so, how should it be done and how should it not be done? What does it mean to live before God and not before men? Why must we?

2. Read verses 5-8. How do hypocrites pray? What reward do those who pray in this way receive? Why is God displeased? How does he want us to pray? Why? What should be our relationship to God?

3. Read verses 9-13. What should be our prayer topics and petitions? Think about each one: First, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." What does this teach us about who God is? About how we should approach him? What does it mean to hallow his name?

4. Second, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What does this teach us about God's great vision and heart's desire? About Jesus' mission and purpose? About the nature of God's kingdom?

5. Third, "Give us today our daily bread." Why "our"? Why do we ask for "daily" bread? Why for "bread"? What does this teach us about our relationship to God and to our fellow human beings?

6. Fourth, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." What is meant by "debts"? (14-15) Why is it so important to forgive and to be forgiven? Why won't our Father forgive us if we refuse to forgive others?

7. Fifth, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." What does this temptation have to do with the evil one? Why do we need God's help and protection in this matter?

8. Read verses 16-18. What do these verses teach about living before God and not before men? How does the Lord's prayer help us to live before God?