**6/11/23 It All Comes Down to Motivation! Matthew 6:1-18**

* When you do good things for others to be seen by them, then you've already received your reward.
* What is you motivation for ministry?
* Jesus insisted that His followers must do better than the scribes and Pharisees had done.

**Matthew 5:20**

**1. There is a right and a wrong way to give!**

* Giving is always left up to the individual. You should not give reluctantly or in response to pressure.
* People, who have plenty, are to share with people in need.
* A gift should be given from the heart and without attracting attention.
* The Father keeps track of the things that you do to honor Him and most people will never know about.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Matthew 6:1-4, 5:16; Deuteronomy 15:11; Acts 3:2, 6, 9:36, 10:2, 24:17**

**2. There is a wrong and a right way to pray!**

* Prayer is the most powerful weapon that we have, but it is most often underutilized.
* Jesus accused the hypocritical Pharisees of making long prayers for a pretense.
* To avoid the problem of wrong motives in prayer, Jesus tells His disciples to go to an inner room in the house, with no windows through which others can see them.
* Jesus tells us to ask, and it shall be given; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

**Luke 5:15-16, 18:1-8, 20:47; Matthew 6:5-8, 26:39, 42, 44; 2 Kings 4:33; 1 Kings 18:26**

**3. We are given a model to follow for prayer.**

* Jesus gives a sample prayer to show His disciples and us how to pray rather than what to pray.
* Prayer must focus first on God. Self must be put away!
* Our earnest desire should be to see His name hallowed, or treated as a sacred and holy thing.
* Jesus teaches that before we pray for ourselves, we should pray for the success of God's will and His kingdom.
* If we pray the model prayer of Jesus, then we are inviting God to forgive us only to the extent that we forgive others.
* Jesus says when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, who try to look pale and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting.

**Matthew 4:4, 6:9-18, 18:21-35, 26:39; Romans 8:15-18; Ezekiel 36:23; Hebrews 5:7-8; Deuteronomy 8:18; James 1:13, 17; 1 John 1:9; John 17:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:3;**

**Mark 11:25; Ephesians 4:32; and Colossians 3:13**