

# MATTHEW CHAPTER 6

- The basic theme for the next few verses is: MOTIVE
- Contrast between outward deeds and inner thoughts
- This matters even in our spiritual identity Rom.2:28
- Motive and intent perhaps greater than the deed
- No matter how great of a deed, without the intent to obey and please God, it is always a sin



# RIGHTEOUS GIVING



- *Tzedakah* = doing righteousness = righteous giving
- Do NOT give to get personal recognition or credit
- These will not receive a reward from The Father
- The difference centers on the GIVER of the rewards
- Emphasis on “The Father” in the next several verses

# HYPOCRITES



- *Tzedakah* = *eleemosune* in verse 2 = charity to the needy
- In Christ's day most giving outside the Temple and Synagogue was to the needy
- Yeshua calls those who give to gain personal recognition hypocrites
- *Hypokrites* = hypocrites
- A person giving in this manner does so to disguise their evil hearts
- Bava Batra passages show that ancient Jews already had the idea of giving "secretly"

# GIVING IN THE PROPER SPIRIT

- *“Do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing”* may be a unique saying of Jesus
- Right hand = best, dominant hand
- The Father will be the source of our rewards
- “Whom do we choose to please” ????



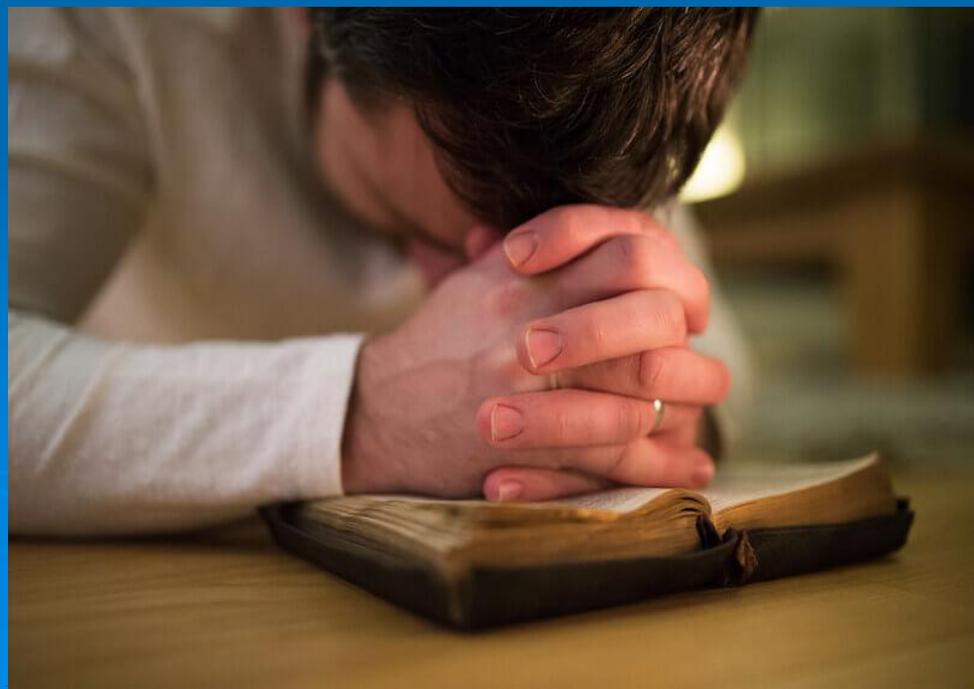
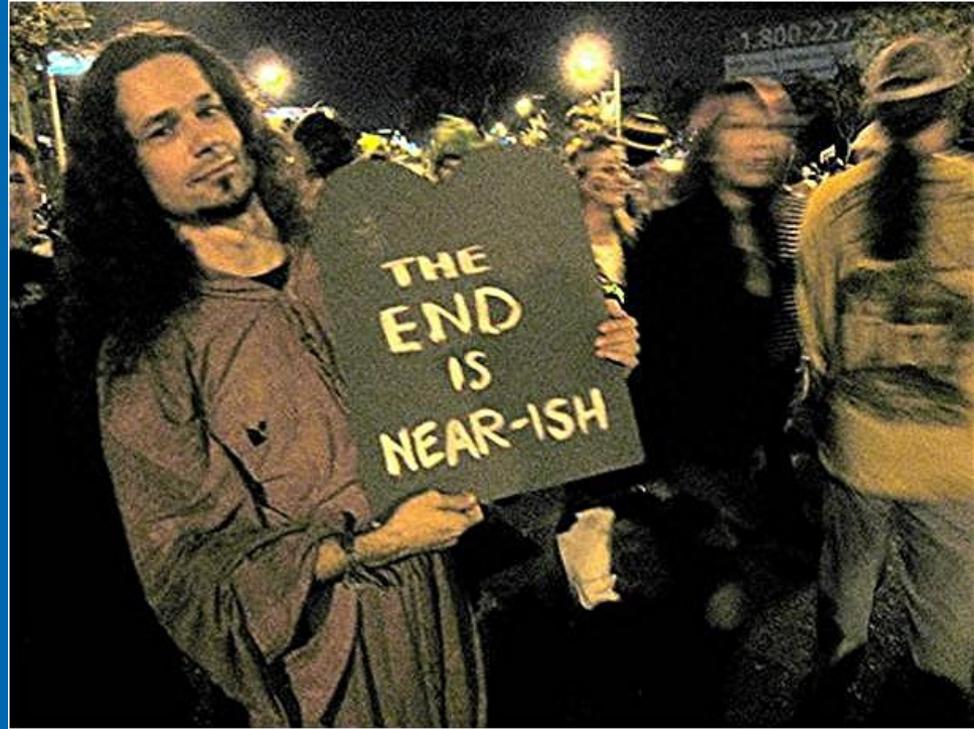
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 9:7**



# PROPER VS. IMPROPER PRAYER

- WHEN not IF you pray
- Prayer in public used to be normal..... No more
- Some Bible commentators see these severe words as Matthew's, not Christ's
- It is NOT wrong to pray on the streets or in the synagogue; the issue is misuse of prayer to get self attention





# PRAYER

Out loud.....  
or silent ??

- Silent prayer means that the mouth is not involved
- The Bible doesn't seem to advocate silent prayer (although it is certainly not wrong)
- *Apodidomi* = reward, recompense in proportion to what was done.... good or bad
- God's reward for proper prayer is.... He responds to it in kind
- God sets conditions for listening to and answering prayer

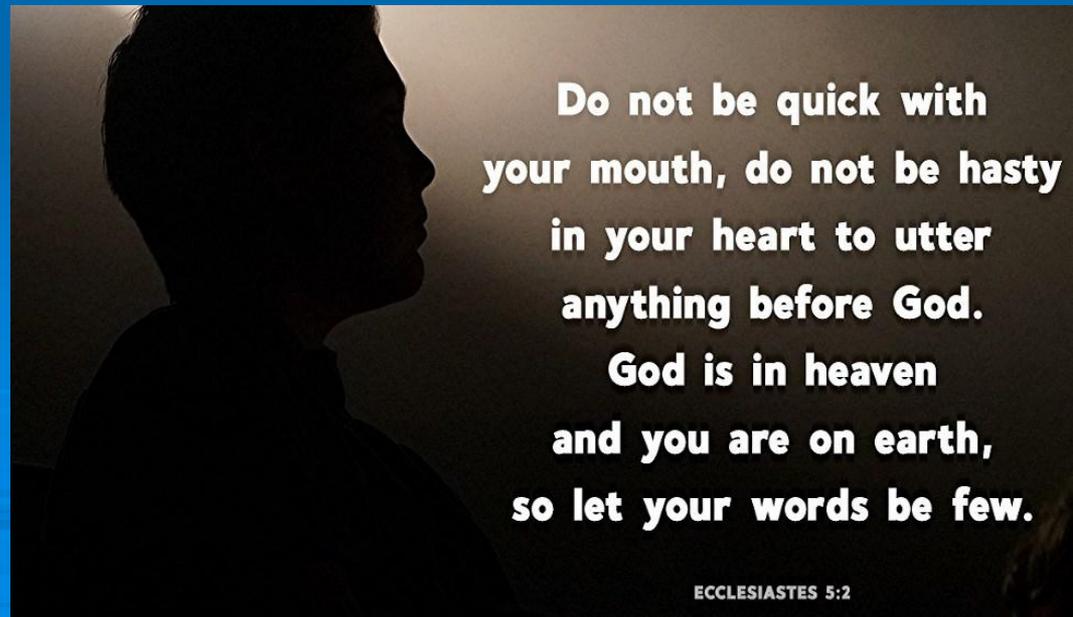
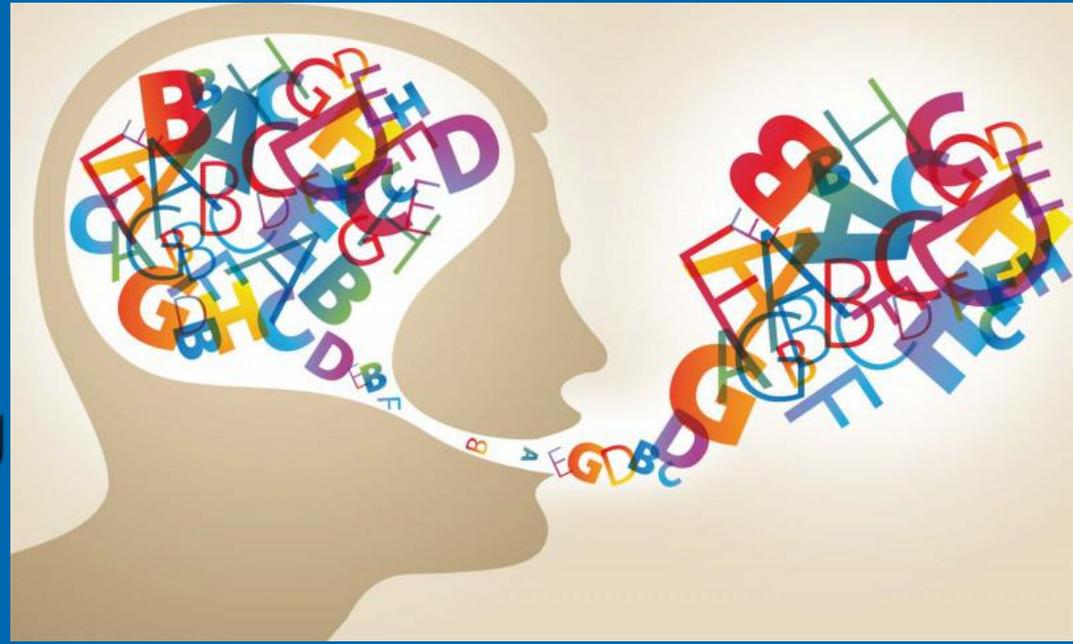
# GOD IS NOT OUR GENIE

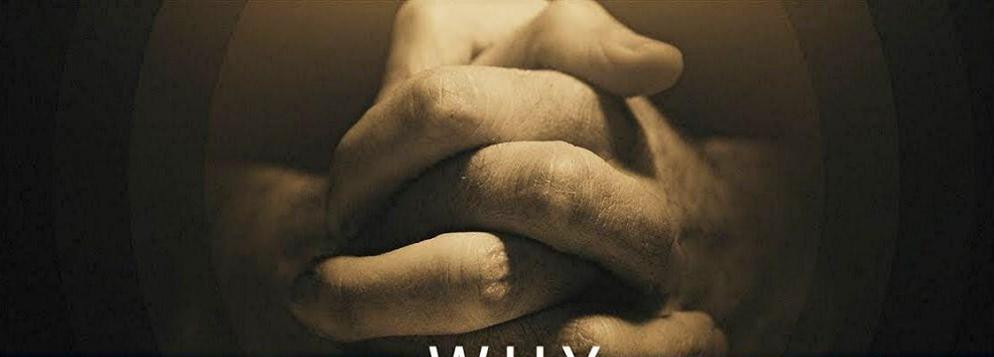


- There's no trick to prayer
- "What is good for us" is not the proper attitude for prayer nor how God necessarily responds
- God does what His purposes are, and what His will is
- Our goal for prayer ought to be how we can fit into God's plan
- Prayer must first be an act of humility and submission

# NO BABBLING !

- Babbling is what the pagans do
- Pagans are not atheists; they worship other gods
- Jews immersed among pagans so they knew how pagans prayed
- Vs. 8: “Don’t be like them !”
- The Father already knows our wants and desires





# WHY PRAY?



Be still.....

.....and know  
that I am God

- We pray because it is God's instruction that we do, therefore it is beneficial to us and the Kingdom
- Prayer is part of the *shalom* that God gives to His worshippers
- Stillness of mind is hard when we are nervous and anxious
- The Lord's Prayer tells us how to achieve and maintain stillness of mind

# “OUR FATHER....”

- Christ instructs us to pray to The Father
- There are several Trinity Doctrines
- Most common among Evangelicals:
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- Co-equal
- No hierarchy
- Same power, wisdom, purpose & knowledge
- Trinity Doctrine is manmade

