

Matt. 6

The Piety Parade  
The Practice of Piety

- I. In relation to others, 6:1-4. Good works
- A. The warning, 1. Righteousnesses, not only giving. Motive of man's admiration will cause loss of reward. "In this advertising age, in which a man hardly need to sound his own trumpet, because there are so many who ready to sound it for him, the danger is greatly increased", 1911, Plummer. "Xns have the sincerity of their benevolence marred by the knowledge that it is sure to be published."
- B. The Contrast of the Phar. 2. Trumpet may mean simply ostentation or chests for alms in temple treasury call trumpets from shape. Dropping coins into them caused ringing sound. Hypocrite—one who plays a part whose actions are not a true reflection of his char. Reward is now and on earth. They did not give, they bought.
- C. The Guideline, 3-4a. Proverbial exp for extremest secrecy.
- D. The Reward, 4. No "openly" in text. omniscience of God is encouragement here. Reward now and later. Prov.19:17; Acts 20:35.
- II. In relation to God. 6:5-15. Prayer
- A. The Practice of hypocrites, 5. Ostentation. in private prayer in synagogue, not group worship, standing OK tho ostentatious in private. Corners of open streets.
- B. The Principles, 6-8. 1. Secret and silent prayer. X was 1 to enjoin this. 2. No empty words—repetitions that are mechanical and thus unintelligible. Repetition OK, Lk 11:8. Heathen, 1Kg 18:26. Emotion OK, Mt 26:44.
- C. 3. Acc to pattern, 9-15. /Tho God knows, 8, expressing /our needs shows faith&depend
- III. In relation to self, 16-18. Fasting
- A. The Law, 1 fast day of Atonement Lev 23:27; 16:29-34. Done also in times of distress, Joel 1:14; 2:15; person sorrow, 1 Sam 20:34. Lk 18:12, Mon Thurs. V 16—when, no if.
- B. The Principles, 16-17. Not gloomy (from affected auster); not disfigured (=corrupt, 19)—unwashed, untrimmed hair ashes on both so men may see self-denial; look natural and be cheerful. Applic: be disciplined inwardly; don't make a show of it.
- C. NT fasting. Acts 10:30; 13:2-3; 14:23; 1 Co 7:5; 2 Co 6:5; 11:27
- Concl. Ques is not should I be pious, but why am I pious?