

Family Discipleship Resource

April 21-27
(Matthew 6:16-24)



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

Thank you for providing me all that I need. Everything I have is from you and I surrender it all for your glory.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Matthew 6:16-24)

“16 Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face 18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. 19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

O – Observe what God has said

What might be some things we could consider fasting from for a season to uniquely focus ourselves on the Lord and his will?

What investments do we make in the Kingdom of God? What changes might we need to make concerning our things?

W – Work on Application

Ultimately, in Jesus' commentary on fasting and investing, we've learned that living as kingdom subjects is more about deflecting attention than seeking it and living as a sacrificial servant of the one true King instead of living as a sultan of our own unimpressive worlds. The way of the King calls us to live lives that depend on the Lord in God-glorifying ways. This involves giving attention rather than receiving attention and focusing on generosity and not falling prey to the perils of greed. This also involves surrender and service to a master instead of seeking to serve as oneself. Ultimately what we see in a very real sense is a life that is devoted to giving of oneself to the bigger picture rather than trying to blow-up one's own. In lack and in luxury, it is not about us, but about Him.

What makes it hard to be a selfless giver in our world today?

What measure might we take to deflect attention and avoid greed?

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Family Weekly Memory Verse: *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow”-James 1:17*