

Flipped: The Upside Down Kingdom (Love God More Than _____)

Andy Deane · 10/29/2023 · Matthew 6:16-24

The Lord shares with us two tools that help us to diagnose our hearts sinful holdouts, and then fix them!

FASTING: can be a FEAST

Matthew 6:16-18, 16 *“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

- Fasting is going without food (or TV, social media, the news, etc.) for a set amount of time to awaken our body & soul to our deep hunger for God.
- “Fasting is feasting. When we have learned well to fast, we will not suffer from it. It will bring strength & joy” D.W.
- Fasting has a way of revealing the things that control us. Why should Christ-followers fast?
 1. Grief over sin & guilt (Nehemiah, Jonah, Daniel, Saul of Tarsus)
 2. Seeking God/direction in prayer (Esther, Ezra, Paul)
 3. Fasting is a way to increase our self-control: 1 Corinthians 9:27, *I discipline my body & keep it under control*
 4. To express solidarity with the poor (skip a lunch & pray for those experiencing poverty & homelessness)
- Jesus main concern in this passage is that fasting would not be a performance.
- “Our body is a gift, but your body has been corrupted by sin. As a result, your body often works against you in your fight with the flesh, via your sex drive, fight-or-flight system, appetites, or survival instincts. Fasting is a way to turn your body into an ally in your fight with the flesh rather than an adversary.” — John Mark Comer
- Join all of our Cornerstone pastors in a church-wide fast this Thursday:
 - Fast from 1 meal or all 3 meals. If fasting from food isn’t healthy for you, try: TV, social media, news, etc.
 - Every time you are hungry, pray or read Scripture to “feed” on God’s Word & presence.
 - Text “FAST” to (951)-425-4425 for a reminder & resources.

MONEY: can be an INVESTMENT

Matthew 6:19-21, 19 *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in & steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- Jesus is not saying, do not: own things, save wisely, save for retirement, save to leave inheritance, or enjoy life.
- 1 Timothy 6:17, *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us everything for our enjoyment.*
- So what does Jesus warn against? Selfish accumulation, extravagant living, a hard heart to not help the needy, the foolishness that you’re winning in life if you have stuff, and materialism that tethers our hearts to earth.
- Luke 12:15, *Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.*
- Jesus’ point is that we should be concerned with the durability of our investment. Treasure on earth will not last.
- Job 1:21, *Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return.*
- To “store up treasure in heaven” is to invest on earth in spiritual ways that will have lasting effects for eternity.
- How it relates to discipleship? Our heart follows what we treasure! So set your heart on Jesus & His kingdom.

MONEY: can be a TOOL

Matthew 6:22-23, 22 *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

- The argument seems to go like this: “just as our eye affects our whole body, so our attention & focus (where we fix our eyes and heart) affects our whole life.” — John Stott
- In these verses, the Greek for “healthy” implies generous and the Greek for “unhealthy” implies stingy.
- If our physical vision becomes clouded by the idol of materialism, & our spiritual vision will grow dimmer.
- So money, or generosity, are both tools we can use for our spiritual formation.

MONEY: can be a MASTER

Matthew 6:24, 24 *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

- Anybody who divides his allegiance between God and money has already given it fully to money, since God can be served only with an entire and exclusive devotion.
- Isaiah 42:8, *“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another, or my praise to idols.”*

MEN’S CONFERENCE

Men, sign up today to gather with other guys at our upcoming conference on Saturday, November 4th, 9am-1pm. Text MEN to (951)425-4425 to register. It’s \$40 and that includes lunch.