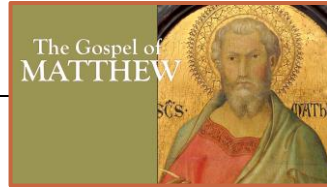


## Approval Ratings

Matthew 6:1–18

Neil Trainer

March 9, 2025

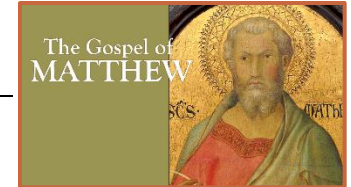


## NOTES

## Approval Ratings

Matthew 6:1–18

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion\*



- What are common and visible ways in which people today seek to gain the recognition and approval of others?
- *Read Matthew 6:1–18.* What patterns and repeated phrases emerge as Jesus talks about giving, praying, and fasting?
- What does Jesus assume his followers are doing (v. 1)? What does Jesus warn his followers about? How does he speak to both actions and motives?
- How are the hypocrites going about giving to the needy? How do the hypocrites pray? How do they fast? What is the common theme?
- What alternative ways does Jesus suggest for his disciples to give, pray, and fast? What do they have in common? What thoughts, feelings, decisions, and spiritual habits would characterize a person who lives this way?
- In Jesus' model prayer (v. 9-13), what is expressed to God? What requests are made? Which themes of Jesus' prayer do you often include in your own prayers, and which might require more of your attention?
- When you hear Jesus repeatedly refer to "your Father, who sees," what images, thoughts, and feelings come up for you? How does Jesus honor our innate desire to be seen and rewarded? How does it feel to know God sees you?
- What might Jesus be saying to you about your motives for your spiritual practices? How will you respond this week to what you're hearing and learning? How can your small group or others support and pray for you as you do?