

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

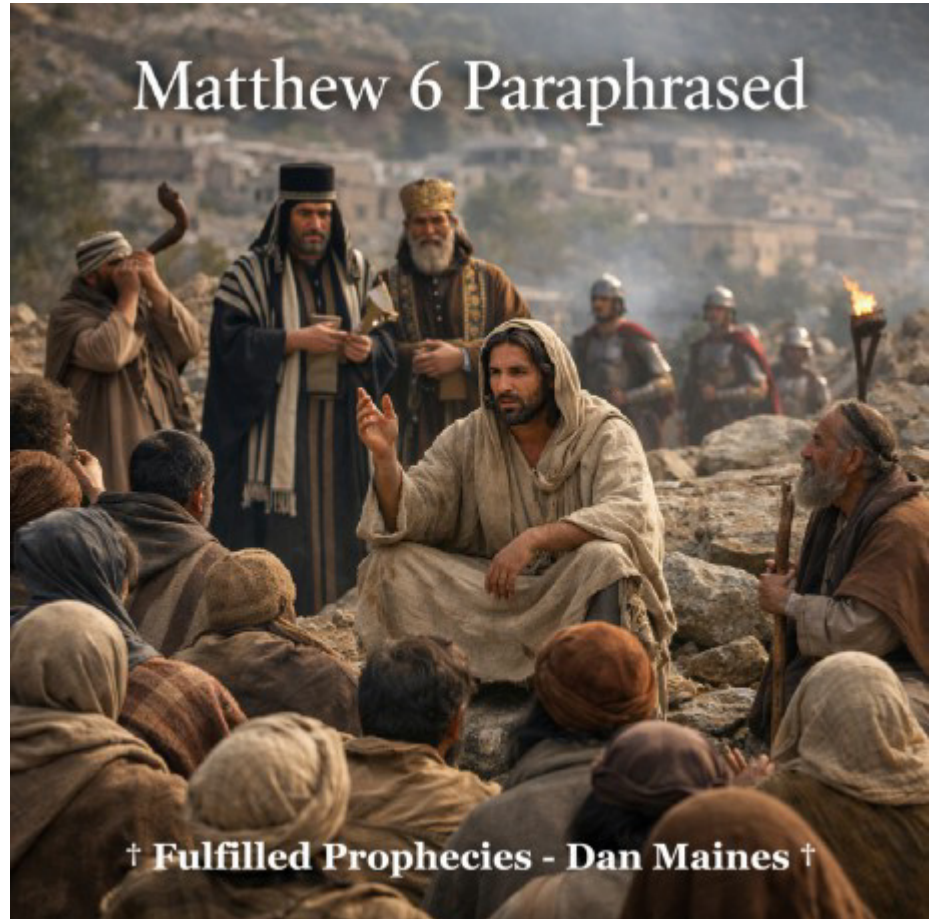
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Matthew 6 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Matthew 6 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount by exposing the difference between outward religion and genuine devotion to God (Matthew 5:20).

† The focus of this chapter is motives, giving, prayer, fasting, possessions, and trusting God rather than worrying (Matthew 6:1).

† Everything here was spoken to people living under the approaching judgment of their generation, calling them to true

righteousness before the coming kingdom transition (Matthew 23:36).

Matthew 6:1

Be careful not to practice your acts of righteousness in front of people just to be noticed by them, otherwise you won't have any reward from your Father in heaven.

† Jesus exposes the hypocrisy common among religious leaders who performed spiritual acts for public praise rather than for God (Matthew 23:5).

† True righteousness is measured by the heart, not by public display, because God sees what people can't see (1 Samuel 16:7).

† Early Christian writer Clement of Alexandria warned believers not to seek praise from men but to live quietly before God.

Matthew 6:2

So when you give to the poor, don't make a show of it like the hypocrites do in the synagogues and streets so people will praise them. Truly, they've already received their reward.

† The giving itself wasn't condemned, the motive was.

Hypocrites turned charity into a performance (Matthew 23:14).

† Once human praise is the goal, the reward is already finished, nothing remains from God (Luke 14:12-14).

† Tertullian wrote that Christian charity should flow from sincerity, not public recognition.

Matthew 6:3

But when you give to the poor, don't even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

† This expression shows how quiet and private generosity should be (Proverbs 19:17).

† God values humility, not self promotion (James 4:6).

† The Didache instructed early believers to give generously without boasting.

Matthew 6:4

Then your giving will be done in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

† God sees actions hidden from public view and judges the motive behind them (Hebrews 4:13).

† This reward isn't earthly praise but God's approval (Colossians 3:23-24).

† Irenaeus emphasized that God examines the inner person, not just outward actions.

Matthew 6:5

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in synagogues and on street corners so people will notice them. Truly, they've already received their reward.

† Public prayer itself isn't wrong, but praying to be seen is the problem (Luke 18:10-14).

† Jesus repeatedly exposed religious leaders who used religion to elevate themselves (Matthew 23:13).

† Origen wrote that prayer should come from sincerity rather than public theater.

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

† Private prayer removes the temptation to perform for others (Psalm 145:18).

† God hears sincere prayer regardless of location or audience (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

† Early Christians often practiced quiet personal prayer as described by Eusebius.

Matthew 6:7

And when you pray, don't repeat empty phrases like the Gentiles do, because they think they'll be heard because of their many words.

† Pagan religions believed long repetitive prayers forced the

gods to respond (1 Kings 18:26-29).

† Jesus teaches that prayer isn't about volume or length but sincerity (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

† Justin Martyr described Christian prayer as thoughtful communication with God rather than ritual repetition.

Matthew 6:8

Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

† Prayer isn't informing God of needs, He already knows them (Psalm 139:4).

† Prayer builds relationship and dependence on God (Philippians 4:6).

† Augustine later wrote that prayer shapes our hearts rather than informing God.

Matthew 6:9

Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored as holy.

† Calling God Father emphasizes relationship, something Israel understood but Jesus clarified more deeply (Isaiah 63:16).

† Honoring God's name means living in a way that reflects His character (Ezekiel 36:23).

† The early church frequently used this model prayer as a guide, as recorded in the Didache.

Matthew 6:10

May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

† The kingdom Jesus spoke about was already approaching in that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† God's will being done refers to the fulfillment of His redemptive plan through Christ (Ephesians 1:9-10).

† Eusebius wrote that the kingdom spread as the gospel went out through the Roman world.

Matthew 6:11

Give us today the food we need for this day.

† This reflects daily dependence on God similar to Israel receiving manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16:4).

† God promises to provide for those who trust Him (Psalm 37:25).

† Early Christians practiced daily reliance on God rather than storing up excess wealth.

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our debts, just as we have forgiven those who owe us.

† Sin is described as a debt owed to God (Colossians 2:13-14).

† Forgiveness from God is connected with forgiving others (Mark 11:25).

† Cyprian wrote that believers must show the same mercy they ask from God.

Matthew 6:13

And don't lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

† Believers ask God for protection from trials that could lead to sin (James 1:13).

† God provides a way of escape from temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).

† The early church often prayed for strength during persecution.

Matthew 6:14

If you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

† Forgiveness is a core principle of the kingdom Jesus was establishing (Matthew 18:21-22).

† Those who receive mercy must show mercy (James 2:13).

† Ignatius urged believers to forgive one another as Christ forgave them.

Matthew 6:15

But if you don't forgive others, your Father won't forgive your

sins.

† A hard heart toward others reveals a heart that hasn't grasped God's mercy (Matthew 18:32-35).

† Jesus warned repeatedly against hypocrisy in forgiveness (Luke 6:37).

† The early church emphasized reconciliation among believers.

Matthew 6:16

When you fast, don't look gloomy like the hypocrites who disfigure their faces so people will notice they're fasting. Truly they've already received their reward.

† Fasting was meant to humble the heart before God (Isaiah 58:6).

† The Pharisees often used fasting as a display of spiritual superiority (Luke 18:12).

† Tertullian noted that fasting should be sincere, not theatrical.

Matthew 6:17

But when you fast, wash your face and groom yourself.

† Jesus teaches that spiritual discipline shouldn't be used to gain public attention (Ecclesiastes 7:16).

† Humility in devotion reflects genuine faith (Micah 6:8).

† Early Christians often fasted quietly without outward signs.

Matthew 6:18

Then your fasting won't be obvious to people, but to your Father who is unseen, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

† Again Jesus emphasizes that God sees what people cannot (Hebrews 4:13).

† The reward comes from God, not from public admiration (Colossians 3:23-24).

† Irenaeus stressed that God values sincerity above outward ritual.

Matthew 6:19

Don't store up treasures for yourselves on earth where moth

and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal.

† Earthly wealth is temporary and easily lost (Proverbs 23:4-5).

† Jesus redirects attention from material security to eternal values (Luke 12:15).

† Clement of Alexandria taught that possessions shouldn't control the believer.

Matthew 6:20

Instead store up treasures in heaven where moth and rust don't destroy and thieves don't break in and steal.

† Heavenly treasure refers to faithful living that honors God (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

† Spiritual priorities outlast earthly wealth (2 Corinthians 4:18).

† Early Christian writers emphasized investing in eternal things rather than temporary wealth.

Matthew 6:21

Because where your treasure is, your heart will be there too.

† What people value most reveals the true condition of their heart (Luke 12:34).

† Jesus calls for loyalty to God above material things (Matthew 22:37).

† Augustine taught that the heart follows whatever it loves most.

Matthew 6:22

The eye is the lamp of the body, so if your eye is healthy your whole body will be full of light.

† The eye symbolizes perception and moral focus (Proverbs 4:25).

† A healthy spiritual perspective fills a person with truth and clarity (Psalm 119:105).

† Early teachers understood this as the purity of one's inner vision.

Matthew 6:23

But if your eye is unhealthy your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light in you is darkness, how great that

darkness is.

† A corrupt heart leads to moral blindness (Isaiah 5:20).

† Spiritual blindness was a common problem among the religious leaders (Matthew 23:16).

† Origen warned that corrupted desires distort spiritual understanding.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters, because either he'll hate one and love the other, or he'll be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve God and wealth.

† Loyalty divided between God and money leads to spiritual conflict (Luke 16:13).

† Jesus exposes wealth as one of the greatest rivals to devotion to God (1 Timothy 6:10).

† Early Christians often warned against the spiritual danger of greed.

Matthew 6:25

For this reason I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing.

† Jesus addresses anxiety by reminding people that God sustains life itself (Psalm 55:22).

† Worry reveals misplaced trust in human security rather than God's care (Philippians 4:6).

† Early Christian teachers encouraged believers to trust God's provision.

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the sky, they don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth far more than they are.

† God's care for creation shows His greater care for humanity (Psalm 147:9).

† Jesus uses nature to illustrate God's daily provision (Job 38:41).

† Basil the Great later used this verse to teach reliance on God's providence.

Matthew 6:27

And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life.

† Anxiety cannot extend life or control the future (Psalm 39:5).

† Worry often harms rather than helps (Proverbs 12:25).

† Early Christian writings frequently warned against living in fear of the future.

Matthew 6:28

And why do you worry about clothing. Look at how the lilies of the field grow, they don't labor or spin thread.

† Jesus again points to creation as evidence of God's provision (Psalm 104:24).

† Nature flourishes without anxiety about the future (Luke 12:27).

† Early commentators often used this passage to illustrate God's generosity.

Matthew 6:29

Yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory wasn't clothed like one of these.

† Solomon represented the height of earthly wealth and splendor (1 Kings 10:4-7).

† Even that glory cannot match the beauty God places in creation (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

† Early Christian writers used this comparison to emphasize God's creative power.

Matthew 6:30

If God clothes the grass of the field which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, won't He do much more for you, you of little faith.

† Jesus highlights God's faithful provision for His people (Psalm 37:25).

† Doubt about provision reflects weak faith in God's care

(Hebrews 11:6).

† Early Christian sermons often encouraged believers not to doubt God's provision.

Matthew 6:31

So don't worry saying what will we eat or what will we drink or what will we wear.

† Jesus repeats the command because worry was deeply rooted in human thinking (Luke 12:29).

† Faith replaces fear by trusting God's promises (Isaiah 41:10).

† Early Christian communities relied heavily on shared provision and trust in God.

Matthew 6:32

Because the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

† Pagan cultures focused heavily on material survival and prosperity (Matthew 6:7).

† God's people are called to live differently, trusting His knowledge of their needs (Psalm 23:1).

† Early Christian teachers stressed that believers should not live like the surrounding world.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

† Prioritizing God's kingdom was central to Jesus' message (Matthew 4:17).

† When God's rule becomes the priority, material needs fall into proper place (Luke 12:31).

† Eusebius wrote that early Christians focused on the kingdom rather than earthly security.

Matthew 6:34

So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

† Jesus calls believers to live faithfully one day at a time

(Lamentations 3:22-23).

† God's grace meets the needs of each day as it comes

(Hebrews 13:5).

† Early Christian teaching often emphasized patience and daily trust in God.

Historical References

† Clement of Alexandria taught that true righteousness is practiced for God alone.

† Tertullian wrote that Christian charity and fasting must come from sincerity rather than public display.

† Justin Martyr described prayer as sincere communication with God rather than ritual repetition.

† Eusebius recorded that early Christians focused on the kingdom and eternal reward rather than earthly wealth.

How It Applies To Us Today

† True faith isn't about impressing people but living honestly before God.

† Generosity, prayer, and spiritual discipline should come from sincere devotion.

† Believers are called to trust God for daily needs instead of living in constant anxiety.

† Our priorities reveal our hearts, when God's kingdom comes first everything else falls into its proper place.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Jesus warn about public religious acts?

A Because many religious leaders practiced righteousness for human praise rather than for God (Matthew 23:5).

Q Why does Jesus connect forgiveness with being forgiven?

A Because a heart that understands God's mercy will show mercy to others (Matthew 18:33).

Q What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first?

A It means placing God's rule and righteousness above material concerns and personal ambition (Matthew 6:33).

Q Why does Jesus say not to worry about tomorrow?

A Because God provides for His people daily and anxiety cannot control the future (Matthew 6:34).

Q Why did Jesus emphasize praying in secret?

A Because God looks at the heart and not the performance of religion before people (Matthew 6:6; 1 Samuel 16:7).

Q What does Jesus mean when He says you can't serve God and wealth?

A He means loyalty can't be divided. A person will ultimately love and pursue one master over the other (Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10).

Q Why did Jesus use birds and flowers as examples?

A He was showing that if God faithfully provides for creation, He'll certainly care for the people created in His image (Matthew 6:26-30; Psalm 147:9).

Q What kind of treasure was Jesus telling people to store in heaven?

A Faithful obedience, generosity, and devotion to God that carries eternal value rather than temporary earthly wealth (Matthew 6:20; 1 Timothy 6:18-19).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Matthew 6:1-34; Matthew 23:5; Luke 12:31; Matthew 16:27-28

† Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Justin Martyr, Eusebius

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.