

# Matthew 6

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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

[Bibleao.com](http://Bibleao.com)

## Matthew 6

The meaning of life

The essence of life is like a flowing river, containing multi-layered and multi-faceted meanings, both abstract and concrete, profound and ordinary. From a biological point of view, life is a self-sustaining and self-replicating phenomenon. Life itself has no inherent meaning, but needs to be created by the individual in life. The value of life comes from the fact that human beings, as rational beings, are able to make moral judgments and choices. These perspectives reveal that life is not just a biological phenomenon, but an existential experience. From a cultural and religious point of view, life is often given a sacred meaning. Life is seen as a gift from the Creator and has an inviolable value. Life is a reality that everyone experiences every day. Life is a continuous process made up of countless moments. It could be a child's laughter, a breath of fresh air after a rain, or a warm time spent with a loved one. These small moments are the true face of life.

Matthew [Chapter 6]

Birds need to hover and forage for food, people need to work and maintain their health, and people's worries can neither change God's arrangement nor change their own destiny, and there is no need to worry about things that have a way, and worry about things that have no way is useless. Since anxiety is of no avail, people are often anxious, and their hearts are not at ease with all dependence. The man-made perfection that Solomon wore was far inferior to God's creation. We should take advantage of the fact that we are still today, and persuade each other daily to allow God's grace to lead us through each day. Don't be a difficult place where tomorrow has not yet come, and the need to become a slave, because what tomorrow will be, we don't yet know.

Jesus said that if your charity is to be appreciated by 'men,' then that is all you will be rewarded. Only those who practice charity in secret will be rewarded by the Father. Godly charity must come from the heart, and in response to God's love, it is a natural outpouring of love. 'Your Father will reward you when he sees in secret.'" This verse, which appears three times, is a sure reward. It is also a promise that Heavenly Father will fulfill. When we pray, we have a heart with God, and we do not allow anything to disturb us, and we are in harmony with our Heavenly Father, and we are not convincing our Heavenly Father, but we are convincing ourselves. It's not that God doesn't hear prayer, it's that we don't believe God hears prayer.

In all three things, almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, Jesus spoke of them as "deliberate." It's deliberately visible: the real point is what motivates us? Is it intentional to let others know. These three things should come from the heart and true love, and if they are only done on the surface, then they will completely lose their meaning. True faith inevitably brings humility. Because the closer we get to God, the more we can discover His greatness, and the more we can see our own insignificance. When we give alms, we do not do it to gain praise or to be seen, but it is a natural outpouring of life.

The Lord's prayer is that God will reign over the earth, when God's will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Is God's authority and will unimpeded in us? Do we need to ask ourselves whether we are looking for "daily food" or luxury. Do you have faith in God's provision? There is no obedience to God's arrangement. If you pray when you are unforgiving, you will find that those prayers do not seem to reach the Father because of an unconnected relationship with the Father. We need to examine our own indebtedness to God and our own grudges toward others. We are to forgive others, as God forgives us. When we encounter temptation, pray that God will not encounter temptation that we cannot resist. We admit our weaknesses and ask God to keep them.

What a person's eyes see often tells what they love in their hearts. The eyes are the "lamps of the body" of a person, and the eyes of a person will shine and reveal the most hidden things in the body. If our hearts are single-minded with the things of heaven, our eyes will be fixed solely on God, and our spiritual aurtures will be opened.

Those who are bent on accumulating wealth on the earth have a simple gaze, asking for money; The most problematic people today are those who want to store up their riches on earth and in heaven. Earthly wealth is unreliable, environmental changes will devalue wealth, wealth itself will deteriorate and wear out, and wealth will flow into other people's pockets unconsciously. The Lord Jesus tells us not to store up money "for yourselves", but to use it for the kingdom of heaven, for God's sake, and for the poor in the name of the Lord.

We pray together

Thank you, Lord, for how glad you are to draw near to us and bless us. Help us to do godly good works, to keep our eyes on the values of God's kingdom, to live a victorious life in Christ every day, and to live a good testimony. Teach us to put away all obstacles, to seek your face in faith and humility, and to fulfill your glorious promises.

Thank you and pray in the name of Jesus' victory name, amen.

## Matthew 6 –

### Giving to the Poor and Prayer

**6** “Be [very] careful not to do your <sup>[a]</sup>good deeds publicly, to be seen by men; otherwise you will have no reward [prepared and awaiting you] with your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “So whenever you give to the poor *and* do acts of kindness, do not blow a trumpet before you [to advertise it], as the hypocrites do [like actors acting out a role] in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored *and* recognized *and* praised by men. I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, they [already] have their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the poor *and* do acts of kindness, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing [give in complete secrecy], <sup>4</sup> so that your charitable acts will be done in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “Also, when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to pray [publicly] standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets so that they may be seen by men. I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, they [already] have their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your most private room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> “And when you pray, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> So do not be like them [praying as they do]; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

<sup>9</sup> “Pray, then, <sup>[b]</sup>in this way:

‘Our Father, who is in heaven,  
<sup>[c]</sup>Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup>

‘<sup>[d]</sup>Your kingdom come,  
Your <sup>[e]</sup>will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>

‘Give us this day our <sup>[f]</sup>daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>

‘And forgive us our <sup>[g]</sup>debts, as we have forgiven our debtors [letting go of both the wrong and the resentment].

<sup>13</sup>

‘And do not <sup>[h]</sup>lead us into temptation, but deliver us from <sup>[i]</sup>evil. <sup>[j]</sup>[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive <sup>[k]</sup>others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins], your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others [nurturing your hurt and anger with the result that it interferes with your relationship with God], then your Father will not forgive your trespasses.

### Fasting, The True Treasure, Wealth (Mammon)

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you are fasting, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they put on a sad and dismal face [like actors, discoloring their faces with ashes or dirt] so that their fasting may be seen by men. I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, they [already] have their reward in full. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head [as you normally would to groom your hair] and wash your face <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting will not be noticed by people, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves [material] treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.

<sup>22</sup>“The eye is the lamp of the body; so if your eye is clear [spiritually perceptive], your whole body will be full of light [benefiting from God’s precepts]. <sup>23</sup>But if your eye is bad [spiritually blind], your whole body will be full of darkness [devoid of God’s precepts]. So if the [very] light inside you [your inner self, your heart, your conscience] is darkness, how great *and* terrible is that darkness!

<sup>24</sup>“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].

### **The Cure for Anxiety**

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, stop being worried *or* anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted) about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, as to what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow [seed] nor reap [the harvest] nor gather [the crops] into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup>And who of you by worrying can add one <sup>U</sup>hour to [the length of] his life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you worried about clothes? See how the lilies *and* wildflowers of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin [wool to make clothing], <sup>29</sup>yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory *and* splendor dressed himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive *and* green today and tomorrow is [cut and] thrown [as fuel] into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry *or* be anxious (perpetually uneasy, distracted), saying, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the [pagan] Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; [but do not worry,] for your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But first *and* most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also.

<sup>34</sup>“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6 is a chapter in the New Testament, part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). This chapter focuses on practical aspects of Christian living, emphasizing humility, sincere devotion, and reliance on God. It contains instructions on giving, prayer, fasting, material possessions, and trust in God.

### **Key Sections and Important Verses**

#### **1. Giving to the Needy (Verses 1–4)**

- **Key Verse:** *"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* (Matthew 6:3–4)
- **Theme:** Acts of charity should be done privately and with pure motives, seeking God's approval rather than human praise.

## 2. The Lord's Prayer (Verses 5–15)

- **Key Verses:**
  - *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:9–10)
  - *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* (Matthew 6:14)
- **Theme:** Prayer should be sincere and focused on God's will. The Lord's Prayer serves as a model for Christian prayer, emphasizing worship, dependence, and forgiveness.

## 3. Fasting (Verses 16–18)

- **Key Verse:** *"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."* (Matthew 6:16)
- **Theme:** Fasting should be a private act of devotion, not a display of piety for public admiration.

## 4. Treasures in Heaven (Verses 19–24)

- **Key Verses:**
  - *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven."* (Matthew 6:19–20)
  - *"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."* (Matthew 6:24)
- **Theme:** Believers are called to prioritize eternal values over material wealth, as divided loyalty hinders spiritual growth.

## 5. Do Not Worry (Verses 25–34)

- **Key Verses:**
  - *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"* (Matthew 6:25)
  - *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33)

- **Theme:** Trust in God's provision and sovereignty. Anxiety about material needs reflects a lack of faith in God's care.
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### **Theological Thought**

Matthew 6 underscores the inward nature of true righteousness, contrasting it with external displays of piety. It challenges believers to align their hearts with God's values, emphasizing sincerity in worship, dependence on divine provision, and eternal perspective. Key theological themes include:

- **God's Sovereignty:** Trust in God as the ultimate provider and sustainer.
  - **Kingdom Ethics:** A call to live according to the values of God's kingdom, not the world's standards.
  - **Relationship with God:** Authentic spirituality involves personal, heartfelt devotion rather than public recognition.
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### **Spiritual Influence**

Matthew 6 has profoundly influenced Christian spirituality by shaping practices of prayer, fasting, and stewardship. The Lord's Prayer is central to Christian worship across denominations, and the teachings on anxiety and materialism encourage believers to live with faith and simplicity. The chapter inspires humility, generosity, and a focus on eternal priorities, fostering a deeper trust in God's love and care.