

SOTM 15 - Delighting The Father

This chapter focuses on our relationship with our heavenly Father. The word Father occurs three times in chapter five, but it occurs twelve times in chapter six. Let us always remember when both Adam and God enjoyed their daily fellowship in the Garden of Eden. Before the fall of Adam, he never hid himself from God when He would come to fellowship in the cool of the day. Adam tended his Father's garden. God came to fellowship with Adam while he tended the garden. Today ... people are God's garden:

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: **ye are God's husbandry**, ye are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God; **you are God's garden** and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building. [Isa. 61:3.] AMPLIFIED BIBLE

When we minister to people, our Father LOVES that we are doing what He loves, and that we are doing it partly because ... we **know** He loves it. It is His will. Giving, praying, fasting. These are just between you and the Father. Notice the stark contrast between the heart motivations of Jesus and the Pharisees.

Matthew 23:5-6 But all their works they do **for to be seen of men**: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, (6) And love the **uppermost rooms** at feasts, and the **chief seats in the synagogues**,

In my wildest dreams, I cannot imagine Jesus ever thinking ... *"I better make sure people see me giving, praying, and fasting so they will think I am truly a man of God."* No! That is the whole point Jesus is making here. Remember, He is teaching the kingdom of God prophetically to us on this side of His resurrection. Because of His work of redemption, the new birth will be possible. Once you are born again, you ARE a child of God. Not because of what you do, but because of what He did. You don't have to prove you are a child of God to any person. The devil tried to get Jesus to prove He was the Son of God. "If thou be the Son of God ..." You don't give, pray, or fast to impress men. You give, pray, and fast because you know WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU ARE FROM, AND WHY YOU ARE HERE.

Matthew 23:9 And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

The same Jesus told us to honor our earthly father and mother. So why say this? Because He is making the point after you are born again, you are no longer of this world. You honor the father and the mother that brought you into the world, but in truth ... you are no longer a part of the world. Jesus wants you to be more conscious of your rebirth than you are of your first birth. Jesus wants you to be more aware of your heavenly Father than you are of your earthly father. Remember from Matthew chapter five:

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Even in our quest for true revival, the goal is not to become famous or to obtain glory from men. Our goal is to bring glory to our heavenly Father;

John 14:12-13 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (13) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

The "When You's" – [Not the "If You's"]

Matthew 6:1-4 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. (2) Therefore **when thou doest thine alms**, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (3) But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: (4) That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

What is this reward that the Father gives? In my early days when I was not nearly as secure in my relationship with my Father as I am today, I focused on verses like this;

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

That is absolutely true, but the monetary return is not my focus now. Don't get me wrong, God WILL perform His Word. You will find it very hard to out-give God. But that is not the reward I am seeking now. What is the reward I want? His DELIGHT. His pleasure. His joy of being able to help the poor through the hands of one of His sons. It DELIGHTS my heavenly Father. He loves it. He enjoys it. It brings Him pleasure. And that is my reward!

Matthew 6:5-15 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (6) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (7) But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. (8) Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. (9) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Why is prayer to be just between you and your Father? Because prayer gives Him the opportunity to co-labor with YOU! This is continuing the whole concept of Him walking with you in the cool of the day while you minister in His GARDEN ... which is people. Prayer allows Him to work with you, His child. It is between you and Him. This is treasure to your Father. This relationship between you and the Father is very intimate. It is too precious to be shared with other people. This is you and your Father working together. You pray. He answers. People get help. The Father is DELIGHTED!

Matthew 6:16-18 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (17) But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; (18) That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

This goes back to the warning Jesus gave in Matthew chapter five, to use extreme discipline on the flesh. You are born again. You are a child of God. Your flesh is of this world and it has ungodly appetites and desires. It has no moral compass at all. It MUST be kept under the dominion of your spirit or it will lead you to hell. Jesus said so, time and again in Mat chapter five.

Mark 2:20 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

The apostle Paul confirms what Jesus taught:

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a **castaway**.

Fasting DELIGHTS the Father because it shows I am a son who has matured to the point of understanding ... my body must be kept under the dominion of my spirit. I must make sure that I never let my body lead me because if I do, and if I habitually live after the flesh, I will die.

Romans 8:13-14 For **if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:** but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

What is the reward of Fasting? Pastor Dave always said it was more answered prayer because you bring the operation of your flesh below the operation of your spirit. Always remember, fasting DELIGHTS your Father. It is a treasure that is not to be shared with other people. Fasting is intimate between you and the Father. He DELIGHTS in seeing His children mortify the deeds of the body. Fasting is a tool we have been given that helps us do that. The intimacy with the Father is the REWARD, and more answered prayer to glorify the Father is the REWARD. **These are the treasures** of mature children of God.

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves **treasures** upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**