

MATTHEW 6

CHARITABLE GIVING (6:1-4)

An anonymous early Christian on how we should give to help others:

“You who have offered nothing to God, what do you expect to receive from God? Everything done on account of God is given to God and received by God. But what is done to be seen by others is poured into the wind...What is human praise but the sound of the whistling wind?”

HOW TO PRAY (6:5-14)

Blessed Theophylact on why we ask for things from God:

“It is not to inform God of anything that we make our petitions, but instead, that we may detach ourselves from the cares of life and receive benefit by conversing with God.”

Blessed Theophylact on saying, “Our Father:”

“Prayer is a petitioning for good things. By saying ‘Father,’ the Lord shows you of what good things you have been deemed worthy, having become a son of God. By saying ‘in the heavens’ He has revealed to you your fatherland and your paternal home. For if you desire to have God as your Father, then look toward heaven and not toward earth.”

HOW TO FAST (6:16-18)

Abba Isidore on the danger of fasting for the wrong reasons:

“If you fast regularly, do not be inflated with pride; if you think highly of yourself because of it, then you had better eat meat. It is better for a man to eat meat than to be inflated with pride and glorify himself.”

TREASURES IN HEAVEN (6:19-24)

Blessed Augustine on our priorities and focus:

“If someone does something with the intent of gaining earthly profit, that one’s heart is upon the earth. How can a heart be clean while it is wallowing in the mud? On the other hand, if it be fastened upon heaven it will be clean, for whatever is heavenly will be unpolluted.”

DO NOT WORRY (6:25-34)

Blessed Theophylact on God caring for His people:

“The kingdom of God is enjoyment of all that is good. This comes through righteousness. To him who seeks after spiritual things God in His generosity adds that which is needed for physical life.”

Find more study guides and other resources online at orthodoxyouth.org/matthew.

Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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