



## Lesson 3: The Christian's Devotion

God the Father is honored when Christian disciplines are practiced.

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### Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

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### Introduction

In our previous lesson, The Christian's Morality, we learned that God is concerned not just with outward actions, but inward transformation. Jesus taught that anger, lust, dishonesty, and hatred all begin in the heart—and that true righteousness reflects the nature of our Heavenly Father.

Now, in this lesson, we move from moral transformation to spiritual devotion. If morality reveals our obedience, then devotion reveals our relationship. In Matthew 6:1–18, Jesus addresses three foundational spiritual disciplines: giving, prayer, and fasting. These practices were common among religious people, but many performed them for recognition rather than reverence. Jesus exposes this hypocrisy and redirects our focus:

**Devotion is not about being seen by people—it is about being known by God.**

This lesson challenges us to examine not just what we do for God, but why we do it.

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**Key Terms Defined**

<b>TERM</b>	<b>ORIGINAL WORD in Greek</b>	<b>DEFINITION (Contextual)</b>
Devotion		
Debts		
Trespases		
Alms (Giving)		
Hypocrite		
Secret		
Vain Repetitions		
Hallow		
Anoint		

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## Transition into Section 1

Jesus begins by addressing the danger of performing righteous acts for public approval. While giving, praying, and fasting are good and necessary, they lose their value when done for recognition instead of reverence.

The issue is not the action—it is the motive behind the action.

## SECTION 1: Christian Giving (Matthew 6:1-4)

### Discussion Questions:

#### Text/Exegesis:

1. Why does Jesus describe those who seek public recognition for their giving as having already "received their reward"?

#### Application:

How can we practically practice "secret" giving in a world that encourages us to post our good deeds on social media?

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## Transition into Section 2

After addressing how we handle our resources, Jesus moves to how we handle our conversation with God. Prayer is the lifeline of the believer, but it can easily be weaponized as a tool for social status.

## SECTION 2: Christian Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)

### Discussion Questions:

#### Text/Exegesis:

1. Jesus provides a "model prayer" (The Lord's Prayer). How does this structure keep our focus on God's priority before our own needs?

#### Application:

What practical changes can you make to deepen your private prayer life and make it more meaningful?

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## Transition into Section 3

The final discipline Jesus addresses is fasting. Like giving and prayer, fasting is meant to be a physical expression of a spiritual hunger for God.

## SECTION 3: Christian Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)

### Discussion Questions:

#### Text/Exegesis:

1. Why does Jesus command His followers to "anoint your head and wash your face" while fasting?

#### Application:

How can you ensure that your personal spiritual sacrifices remain a "secret" between you and the Father this week?

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## Closing: Bringing It All Together

Christian devotion is not a performance—it is a private meeting with a Father who sees in secret. Jesus calls us to a life where our "audience of one" is more important than the applause of the crowd. When our giving is quiet, our prayer is sincere, and our fasting is humble, we honor the Father and find the true reward of His presence.

**Reflect deeply:** If the only person who knew about your spiritual life was God, would you still be doing what you are doing today?