



## Week of Apr 30 - a

### Scripture: Mt 6:16-18

**Main Idea:** Here Jesus teaches about fasting. He doesn't command fasting but instead says, "when you fast." This implies the assumption that his followers would fast. He does however, teach how not to fast, namely, to impress others. Instead, we are to fast for humble and private reasons.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** If we choose to fast (go without something), does Jesus say that we should tell everyone what we are doing?

**Grade school:** Do you know what it means to fast? It's like a diet, but for spiritual reasons. It's not a requirement, but when grown ups decide to fast, they are supposed to do it for the right reasons. They are not supposed to walk around trying to impress people with what they are doing. It should be between them and God.

**Teen:** Jesus is again reemphasizing to whose benefit these actions should be and where our rewards will be. What happens when we do the right things for selfish reasons? What if we don't get the recognition we seek?

**Adult:** Are you surprised to realize that the language Jesus uses to describe fasting is very similar to what he uses in Mt 6:1-6, where he talks about doing things to be noticed/honored by men? Why do you think it is important for these items – practicing your righteousness, giving alms, praying, and fasting – are to be done in secret, or to be seen by God rather than man?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to help us when we fast, to do it humbly and for the right reasons

### April Memory Verse:

#### Psalm 56:3 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.



## Week of Apr 30 - b

### Scripture: Mt 6:19-24

**Main Idea:** Here Jesus teaches against the love of money, or greed. He teaches of the foolishness of accumulation of earthly wealth, and instead encourages the pursuit of spiritual wealth. Then he points out the problem with greed. When we are chasing money, we cannot, at the same time be chasing God. We can't serve both.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** We often have a wish list of toys we want. Should we want the toys more than time with God?

**Grade school:** Does the Bible say that money is evil? No, just what we choose to do with it or how we choose to get it. I'm sure you've heard "you can't take it with you!" So live your life to invest in your spiritual side, and not what you can afford to buy at the store, how big a house you might want, or how fancy a car you may buy!

**Teen:** We must "keep our eyes on the prize." What happens when you focus too much on accumulating possessions or money? Can it hurt others or yourself? What is meant by "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also?" How would it affect your mindset/attitude if you focused solely on storing treasures in Heaven?

**Adult:** Have you ever wanted something strongly, but realized, it was only because you had seen it in a commercial? Marketing firms are there for a reason, aren't they? Do you think this is why Jesus inserted the three sentences about the eye and light and darkness in the middle of the discussion about treasures on earth (v 22-23)? If you turned off the TV and screen for a month, would it impact your spending? If you could control what you saw and eliminate the commercials, would you spend less during that time?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to help us to not be greedy and chase earthly wealth. Also, for God to help us seek him more, and the eternal riches of heaven

#### April Memory Verse:

**Psalm 56:3 (ESV)**

**<sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.**