

Look In, Look Out, and Look Up

Chapter 10 Audio lesson: New Testament 10



Objective: To understand the three perspectives of a disciple and how we are to live for God.



“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

—Matthew 5:43-45

“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

When Jesus taught the beatitudes, He challenged His disciples to look into the core of their beings and consider the mindset and attitudes that were driving their lives. In the long passage that followed the beatitudes, He challenged them to look around and apply the beatitudes in their most important relationships—including their relationships with their enemies. Now in Matthew 6, Jesus tells His disciples to look up and consider the spiritual disciplines and values of an authentic disciple.

The Pharisees practiced their righteousness to impress other people. Jesus challenged His disciples to live for the approval of God. This is at least part of what He meant when He taught that the righteousness of His disciples would be greater than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Christians—true followers of Christ—are to live with their eyes on God, seeking His approval while they allow Him to make them into part of His solution for the needs of the world.



1. True or false? Those who are righteous in their relationships will never have any problems with other people.
2. True or false? Jesus taught that it is very important for His disciples to always keep their word, even when it is difficult.
3. True or false? The Sermon on the Mount does not describe how we are to live today. It is only a description of what heaven will be like.
4. True or false? Jesus did not agree with the teaching that we should love our friends but hate our enemies.
5. True or false? Our spiritual well-being is directly related to how we manage our money and our giving.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

6. Where was the idea of loving one's enemies first taught?
 - a. In the Sermon on the Mount
 - b. In the Old Testament
 - c. In the Garden of Eden
 - d. After Jesus ascended to heaven
7. Which is the highest law for a Christian disciple?
 - a. The law of self-preservation
 - b. To die as a martyr
 - c. To glorify God and do the will of Jesus
 - d. To empty oneself of all desires
8. What did Jesus teach about peace?
 - a. That war is always wrong
 - b. That war is the only way to peace
 - c. That Christians should not fight in wars
 - d. That Christians should seek reconciliation and peace in all of their relationships with others
9. How are Christians to fit into their culture?
 - a. We are to be different.
 - b. We are to conform to those around us.
 - c. We are to contradict everything in our culture.
 - d. We are to completely isolate ourselves from our culture.
10. In the Sermon on the Mount, which direction does Jesus instruct His disciples to look?
 - a. To look inside themselves
 - b. To look around at others
 - c. To look up to God
 - d. All of the above

11. How is it possible for Christians to be different from the world, to keep His Word, and to love their enemies?

- a. We must have great willpower.
- b. We must be trained through much discipline.
- c. God gives us the grace and strength we need.
- d. We cannot do these things until we get to heaven.

12. Why should we give to the needy?

- a. To be rewarded by others for our good deeds
- b. To help all the needy people
- c. So that others might see our good example
- d. To be rewarded by God

13. In what ways does God want us to give and to pray?

- a. As a means for everyone to see how good we are
- b. As an act of worship for God to see
- c. As a secret that no one can ever find out
- d. As a way to earn His favor



Do you have an enemy God wants to love through you? How can you show God's grace to your enemy? Which is more important to you in your gifts to the Lord: how much you give, or your motives for giving? Which is more important to the Lord? Why?



Thank God for all of His gifts to you. Ask Him to help you give Him your offerings with a pure heart out of your love for Him. Ask Him to entrust you with more, that you might be able to faithfully give Him more.



Going Deeper

1. What are the three perspectives or directions in life that a disciple must practice to be one of the solutions and answers of Jesus? _____

2. After His teaching about the relationship of a disciple to his enemies, why is it significant that Jesus then taught the importance of looking up in the right way? _____

3. What were the differences between the righteousness of a disciple of Jesus and the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, according to the teaching of Jesus in the first half of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew? _____

4. What and why are the three vertical spiritual disciplines of a disciple of Jesus, according to this same passage of Scripture? _____

5. Can you focus 20 questions implied or directly asked by Jesus that surface the values of a disciple of Jesus, and in what way do our treasures show us where our heart is, according to Matthew 6:19-34? _____

6. If you think of your values or priorities as a target with a bull's-eye surrounded by a dozen circles, what should be the "values priority target" of an authentic disciple of Jesus according to this same passage? _____

7. In what way does it make them a solution of Jesus when authentic disciples of Jesus have these vertical disciplines and values in their life? _____
