

Review: Biblical Priorities "Pop Quiz"

To what degree have you taken specific steps in the following areas?

(1 = none; 2 = little; 3 = started and doing okay; 4 = making good progress; 5 = vigorously pursuing)

- Objectives:** Moving from **vague ideas** to **specific decisions** about the kind of person I want to become and what I want to accomplish.

- Priorities:** Ordering my life in such a way that the **important** and **eternal** are not forfeited by the "pressing" and the "urgent."

- Schedule:** Determining specifically **how** and **when** I will place the important and eternal in my **daily life**.

- Discipline:** Doing what needs to be done when it needs to be done (i.e. choosing to habitually delay gratification of short-term pleasures in order to more fully enjoy long-term success).

- Accountability:** Enlisting the support of those who love me to help me keep my **commitments** to God.

Jesus' Warning #1:

In our pursuit of "seeking first" His righteousness there is the...
...danger of _____.

Matthew 5 Overview

The reward and character
of His true followers
5:3-12

Salt and light –
be worthy examples
5:13-16

Relationship of this new
teaching to the Law of Moses
5:17-20

True Righteousness (Matthew 5:20)

*"You have
heard it said..."*

*but I say
to you..."*

External
Doing
Duty
Performance
Guilt
Letter
Head
Head

Internal
Being
Devotion
Relationship
Grace
Spirit
Heart
Heart

Application of Matthew 5:20 to...

- Murder – 5:21-26
- Adultery – 5:27-30
- Divorce – 5:31-32
- Oaths – 5:33-37
- Retribution – 5:38-41
- Enemies – 5:43-48

Summary: Jesus condemns _____ righteousness (spiritual activities) when it does not flow from _____ relationship with God.

Jesus' Warning #2:

In our pursuit of "seeking first" His righteousness there is also the...

...danger of _____. Matthew 6:1-18

- Giving – Key Issue = _____ Matthew 6:1-4
- Prayer– Key Issue = _____ Matthew 6:5-8
- Fasting – Key Issue = _____ Matthew 6:16-18

Summary: Spiritual disciplines are _____ but become dangerous when they become means to gain the _____ of men rather than deepen our _____ with God.

Application: _____ is God's method of keeping our motives pure.

Discussion Questions:

1. In brief, summarize the two principles taught today with regard to discipline in our spiritual lives: the principles of distortion and deception.
2. How is it that even our efforts to draw near to God can sometimes be destructive to our relationship with God?
3. What aspect of this message hit "closest to home" with you? Why?
4. Discuss the **balance** needed with regard to our will and effort, God's grace, accountability and maintaining pure motives as they relate to "seeking first" His righteousness in your life right now?