

Practicing your...

Jesus uses the three chief acts of Jewish piety (2-18)- almsgiving, prayer, fasting - as an illustration for this warning.

3. Fasting

-Voluntary abstention from food for the purpose of religious devotion

-Jesus assumes his disciples will fast (Mt 9:14-17)

-The Pharisees fasted twice per week (Luke 18:9-14)

**Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 6:16-24
Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2015**

3rd illustration from warning in Mt. 6:1-
"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them..."

...having told his disciples of the true righteousness expected of them, He now warns them of the danger of religious hypocrisy

Each of these illustrations follow the same pattern (2-18)

(1)
16^c And **when you fast**, do not look gloomy like **the hypocrites**, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be **seen by others**.⁽²⁾ Truly, I say to you, **they have received their reward**.

(1) Warning not to do the act to be praised by men,

(2) Guarantee that those who ignore this warning will get what they want but no more,

(3)
17 But when you fast, **anoint your head and wash your face**, <- **Basic Hygiene** - Ruth 3:3; 2 Sam 12:20; Pss 23:5; 104:15; 133:2; Eccl 9:8; Luke 7:46

(3) Instruction on how to perform the act of piety secretly, and

18 that your fasting **may not be seen by others** but by your Father who is in secret.⁽⁴⁾ And your Father who **sees in secret will reward you**.

(4) Assurance that the Father who sees in secret will reward openly

Kingdom Perspectives

Metaphors for loyalty to kingdom values

Treasure

-Is money inherently evil?

-1Ti 6:10, Jam 5:1-6

-Does this mean that we should not work and store up to support our family? (1Ti 5:8)

19^c Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where **moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal**,

Compare to **Luke 12:33-34**

What is "Treasure?"

-The things that we value most.

-The things that drive our actions.

-Faith! Belief! Love!

-We have a choice of where to place value in our lives.

20^b but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where **neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal**. <- **Heb 12:18-29**

21 For where your **treasure is**, **there your heart will be also**.

Eye

What is the impact of having a bad eye? What effect does this have on the whole body?

22^c The **eye** is the lamp of the body. So, if your **eye** is **healthy**, your whole body will be **full of light**,

Compare to **Luke 11:34-36**

What is the "Eye?"

-The focus of our life. Synonymous with Heart!

-We have a choice of where to place focus in our lives.

23^b but if your **eye** is bad, your whole body will be **full of darkness**. If then the **light in you is darkness**, how great is the **darkness**!

Serve

In the two metaphors above, we cannot choose both options.

24^c No one can **serve two masters**, for either he will **hate the one** and **love the other**, or he will be **devoted to the one** and **despise the other**. You cannot serve God and money.

Compare to **Luke 16:13**

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Warning

Matthew 6:1 (ESV)

¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus Assumed His Disciples Would Fast

Matthew 9:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Pharisees Fasted Twice Per Week

Luke 18:9–14 (ESV)

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Oil in Basic Hygiene

Ruth 3:3 (ESV)

³ Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

2 Samuel 12:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.

Psalms 23:5 (ESV)

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

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Psalm 104:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

Psalm 133:2 (ESV)

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

Ecclesiastes 9:8 (ESV)

⁸ Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

Luke 7:46 (ESV)

⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

Treasure

Luke 12:33–34 (ESV)

³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

James 5:1–6 (ESV)

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

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Eye

Luke 11:34–36 (ESV)

³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

Serve

Luke 16:13 (ESV)

¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”