

Three Goals for 2022

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "Three Goals for 2022." I wanted to share some of the scriptures in this short article.

The three main points of the presentation (and this article) were taken from Matthew 6:1-18.

Giving

The Son of God taught that giving should be done to please our Father in heaven—and not be done to receive the praise of people.

Matthew 6:1-4—"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

Here are other scriptures that discuss the habit of giving.

Luke 10:33-35—"But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' "

Matthew 25:40—"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' "

Luke 14:14—"And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Praying

The Son of God taught that praying should be done to please our Father in heaven—and not be done to receive the praise of people.

Matthew. 6:5-6—“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Fasting

The Son of God taught that fasting should be done to please our Father in heaven—and not be done to receive the praise of people.

Matthew 6:16-18—“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

The Bible has a number of instructions about the habit of fasting. One of the best sections of Scripture that gives instructions about fasting is found in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 58:6-7—“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?”