

October 9 Answers

- 1) The rest of Jesus' sermon on the mount. First, Jesus told the people not to practice their righteousness before men to be **noticed** by them. Instead, they should give and pray and fast in **secret**. This teaches us that good deeds should flow out of **gratitude** for what God has done for us, not out of a desire to be praised by men. If we're not doing good to please God, then we're doing it to please **ourselves**. Second, Jesus told the people not to **worry** about their lives, what they would eat or drink or wear. Instead, they should seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all the rest would be given to them. This teaches us to overcome the worries and anxieties of life by remembering that God has **promised** to meet our needs. If we put Him **first** and remain committed to Kingdom ministry, God will take care of our physical, earthly needs. Third, Jesus told the people not to judge and condemn each other. Instead, they should pardon freely and give abundantly. This teaches us not to have a **critical** spirit toward others. Instead of finding fault with them and refusing to pardon their offenses, we should treat them with the **mercy** and kindness with which we would want them to treat us. Fourth, Jesus told the people to be fruit **inspectors**, for there would be many false prophets who would come to them "in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." This teaches us that it's both necessary and appropriate to **judge** whether a person's behavior and teaching is right or wrong. There's a big difference between spiritual vigilance and a harsh, fault-finding spirit. We should be as loving as we can, while at the same time we should be careful to avoid false doctrine. Lastly, Jesus told the people that they should not call Him 'Lord' and then **ignore** his commands. They could do many great deeds in His name, but if they didn't heed his words, they would never enter the Kingdom of heaven. This teaches us that it's easy to claim to be a disciple of Jesus, but the proof is found in faithful **obedience** to His commands.