# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 6

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Matthew 6 fits within the famous Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). While it may not be initially obvious how this chapter fits in a normal club talk, it is very important that we ask ourselves: If this is part of Matthew’s explanation gospel of Jesus, how should it fit in my explanation of the gospel? There are three main sections in this chapter. The first section provides Jesus’ instructions about religious activities: giving money, praying, and fasting. The second section is about treasures in heaven and the last is about anxiousness. All of these sections would be fantastic for campaigners, but for a club talk I will break down the section on “honest” prayer, I hope you will see how it communicates the gospel of Jesus.   1. Be honest... we all pray (6:5a) 2. Hypocrite skill #1: “Look at me!” (6:5b) 3. Hypocrite skill #2: “Listen to me!” (6:7) 4. Authenticity skill #1: Be who you are when you are alone (6:6) 5. Authenticity skill #2: Use your own words, God your real voice (6:8) 6. Honest prayer:    1. God is great and perfect (6:9)    2. God please change our world (6:10)    3. God please provide what we really need (6:11)    4. God please forgive us of our mistakes (6:12)    5. God please help us stay on the right track (6:13) |
| Possible main point(s):   * God knows everything about you. You don’t need to impress God. But, God wants you to talk to Him. * Imagine what the world would be like if it was 100% the way Jesus wanted it to be. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus, who is God, is able to hear our prayers when we are alone. (6:6) * A room with a closed door gives us as much access to God as the front row of a church. (6:6) * God *sees* us just as we are. (6:6) * God *hears* us just as we are. (6:8) * God can: change the world, provide what we really need, forgive us, help us stay on the right track. (6:9-13) |
| What this has to do with our life:   * We all pray (ask for help), for some of us often, others of us only when we are forced to do it, but no human is completely self-sufficient (6:5). 55% of Americans pray to God *every* day. ([link](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/05/04/5-facts-about-prayer/)). * We all want: our world to change, our daily needs to be met, forgiveness, and help... we were designed needy on purpose. (6:9-13). |
| Relevant technical details:   * “*Hypocrites*” (v.5) = Originally this was a Greek theatrical actor, it means to be insincere and “acting the part” of someone who you really aren’t; an “actor” who tries to impress others. * “*Room*” (v.6) = Technical word for an inner storeroom, likely the smallest room in the house and the only one in the house which would have been lockable. Some have likened it to a modern day “broom closet” with a lock. * “*Empty phrases*” (v.7) = Virtually the same as our modern word “babbling” * “*Many words*” (v.7) = Literally means “many” “words”, quantity over quality (or authenticity). * All of the pronouns in the Lord’s prayer are plural. (e.g. *our* Father in heaven, give *us*, forgive *us*, etc.). This shows us that, though we have private access to God (6:6), we are to be a community that prays together. * “*Hallowed*” (v.9) = Treat God as holy, central and important, great and perfect * “*Daily bread*” (v.10) = Most people in Jesus’ day were paid their wages at the end of each day, they were essentially day-laborers; food and resources for the next day or week weren’t guaranteed. * “*Debts*” (v.12) = A metaphor for needing to be forgiven. God is in no need of money! |
| Possible illustrations:   * A “hypocrite” [mask](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00J0I10PW/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1). Build up the difference between what we project vs. who we really are. God knows us. This is a good opportunity for you as the speaker to talk about your own struggles with showing off / identity. * A moment of silence to pray to God honestly. Consider closing with the Lord’s prayer. |

*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 6 (ESV)

**Giving to the Needy**

**6**“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.

**2**“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **3**But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4**so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**5**“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6**But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**7**“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8**Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9**Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

**10** Your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us this day our daily bread,

**12** and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13** And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**14**For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, **15**but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Fasting**

**16**“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **17**But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, **18**that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Lay Up Treasures in Heaven**

**19**“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20**but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**22**“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, **23**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!

**24**“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.

**Do Not Be Anxious**

**25**“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26**Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27**And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **28**And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, **29**yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30**But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **31**Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32**For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**34**“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.