

Sunday, April 3, 2022
Summary of "Life with the Father"
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Chad Montoya

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Chapter 6 begins, *'Beware of doing your righteousness before men.'* The word used is the same as in 5:6, 20. Yet, although the word is the same, the emphasis has shifted. Previously 'righteousness' related to kindness, purity, honesty and love; now it concerns such practices as almsgiving, praying, and fasting. Thus Jesus moves from a Christian's moral righteousness to his 'religious' righteousness. It is important to acknowledge that according to Jesus Christian *'righteousness'* has these two dimensions, moral and religious. John Stott observes that "some speak and behave as if they imagine their major duty as Christians lies in the sphere of religious activity, whether in public (churchgoing) or in private (devotional exercises). Others have reacted so sharply against such an overemphasis on piety that they talk of a 'religion-less' Christianity. For them the church has become the secular city, and prayer a loving encounter with their neighbor." However, Stott concludes, "But there is no need to choose between piety and morality, religious devotion in church and active service in the world, loving God and loving our neighbor, since Jesus taught that authentic Christian 'righteousness' includes both."