

FASTING WAS THE THIRD EXAMPLE JESUS GAVE OF THE PHARISEES RIGHTEOUS PRACTICES THEY LOVED TO FAST SO THAT OTHERS WOULD SEE THEM AND THINK THEM SPIRITUAL

JESUS SAID THAT UNLESS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SURPASSED THAT OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES WE WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MATT 5:20

FASTING EMPHASIZED THE DENIAL OF THE FLESH BUT THE PHARISEES WERE GLORIFYING THEIR FLESH BY DRAWING ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES

THE LORD ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH ACTIONS SHOULD BE DONE IN SECRET BEFORE GOD NOT WITH HOLDING OIL FROM YOUR HEAD AS A RESULT GOD ALONE WOULD KNOW AND WOULD REWARD ACCORDINGLY

IN ALL THREE EXAMPLES OF THE PHARISEES RIGHTEOUSNESS GIVING PRAYING AND FASTING JESUS SPOKE OF HYPOCRITES RECEIVING THEIR REWARD IN FULL WHEN THEIR ACTIONS ARE DONE TO BE SEEN BY MEN

WHAT JESUS IS SAYING WHEN WE GIVE WHEN WE PRAY AND WHEN WE FAST IT SHOULD NOT BE TO BE SEEN BY MEN BUT BY GOD WHO KNOWS OUR HEARTS AND SEES OUR MOTIVES WHEN THEY ARE TO PLEASE MEN RATHER THAN TO PLEASE GOD WE LOSE OUR REWARD FROM GOD

WHEN WE GIVE PRAY AND FAST NOT TO PLEASE MEN BUT GOD HE WILL REWARD US IN FULL WE LIVE TO PLEASE GOD NOT MEN OR OURSELVES

WE DO WHAT WE DO FROM A HEART OF LOVE FOR GOD ACKNOWLEDGING HIM IN ALL OUR WAYS WHENEVER WE GIVE PRAY OR FAST WE ARE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE SEEK HIM ABOVE ALL ELSE TRUSTING IN HIM TO PROVIDE ALL OUR NEEDS

WE WANT HIS NAME TO BE HOLLOWED HIS KINGDOM TO COME AND HIS WILL TO BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

WE THANK HIM FOR PROVIDING OUR GREATEST NEED THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SIN FOR PROVIDING US WITH A PERFECT SACRIFICE HIS SON JESUS CHRIST 2COR 5:21

IT IS OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN WHO PROVIDES FOR OUR SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS HE GIVES US OUR DAILY BREAD HE FORGIVES OUR SIN AND HE PROTECTS US FROM THE EVIL ONE

APART FROM HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING HE GIVES US BREATH AND LIFE OUR GIVING OUR PRAYING AND OUR FASTING IS TO REVEAL OUR FAITH IN GOD FOR WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM HEB 11:6

JESUS SAID HIS HOUSE WOULD BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER MATT 21:13 PRAYER AND FASTING GO HAND AND HAND FASTING HUMBLER US IN PRAYER

JAMES 4:3-10 JAMES SAYS YOU ASK AND YOU DO NOT RECEIVE BECAUSE YOU ASK WITH WRONG MOTIVES SO THAT YOU MAY SPEND IT ON YOUR PLEASURES

THERE ARE TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHERE WE NEED TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD THAT HE MIGHT EXALT US AT THE PROPER TIME

FASTING IS TO HUMBLE US IN PRAYER THAT GOD WILL EXALT US AT THE PROPER TIME ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD

SOME TIMES WE HUMBLE OURSELVES AND SOMETIMES GOD HUMBLER US SO WHEN WE FAST WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD NOT TO BE SEEN OF MEN BUT GOD SO THAT OUR FATHER SEES IN SECRET AND REWARDS US