

# Game of Thrones

Matthew 6:1-34

## Self-Aggrandizement or God-Honoring (6:1-15)

- **Building Reputation or Building Relationship**
- **Hero or Servant**
- **King or Subject**

### Matthew 6:1-6

“Take care not to practice your righteousness **in the sight of people**, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “So when you **give** to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, **so that they will be praised by people**. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you **give** to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your charitable giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners **so that they will be seen by people**. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But as for you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

- **You Can't Have Both**

### John 5:41-44

**I do not receive glory from people;** <sup>42</sup> but I know you, that **you do not have the love of God** in yourselves. <sup>43</sup> I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe, **when you accept glory from one another** and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only God*?

- Accepting Praise

- **“Why do you call me good?”**

### Luke 18:18-19

A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>19</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

- **Genuine Relational Conversation**

### Matthew 6:7-8

“And when you are praying, do not use **thoughtless repetition** as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their **many words**. <sup>8</sup> So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

- **Prayer as Self-Abdication**

- Abdication: “Renouncing the throne”
- **“Then”** is not only referencing not praying in “thoughtless repetition,” but also the conclusion that the LORD is king – and you (Self) renounces your claim on your own kingdom (“casting down your golden crown...” **Revelation 4:10**) and give full allegiance to Him.

### **Matthew 6:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> “Pray, **then**, in this way:

‘Our Father, who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive *other* people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive *other* people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.

## **Building Wealth for the Kingdom; Not Earthly Wealth for Your Kingdom**

(6:16-24)

- **It’s Not About You – At All...**

### **Matthew 6:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> “Now whenever you fast, do not make a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they  $\square$ distort their faces so that they will be noticed by people when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But as for you, when you fast,  $\square$ anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting will not be noticed by people but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

- This may be the hardest truth for American Christians to understand, accept, or even comprehend.

### **Luke 17:7-10**

“Now which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him after he comes in from the field, ‘Come immediately and recline *at the table* to eat’? <sup>8</sup> On the contrary, will he not say to him, ‘Prepare something for me to eat, and *properly* clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup> He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? <sup>10</sup> So you too, when you do all the things which were commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.’”

- **Again: You Can't Have Both**

### Matthew 6:19-24

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

<sup>22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is  $\square$ clear, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is  $\square$ bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

<sup>24</sup> **"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and  $\square$ wealth.**

- You Can't Be Building Two Kingdoms at the Same Time
- Your Allegiance Cannot be to Two Kings
- If You Don't Accept This – Then Everything is Distorted ("*the eye...full of light...full of darkness*")
  - "clear" – Generous
  - "bad" -- Stingy

### Self-Protection Must Give Way to Fully Trusting the King (6:25-34)

- **Your Life's Primary Goals/Agendas/Plans/Energies Cannot Effectively Be Given to Two Pursuits**

<sup>25</sup> "For this reason I say to you,  $\square$ do not be worried about your  $\square$ life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the sky, that they do not sow, nor reap, nor gather *crops* into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more important than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single  $\square$ day to his  $\square$ life's span? <sup>28</sup> And why are you worried about clothing? Notice how the lilies of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin *thread for cloth*, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! <sup>31</sup> Do not worry then, saying, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear for clothing?' <sup>32</sup> **For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But  $\square$ seek first  $\square$ His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be  $\square$ provided to you.**

<sup>34</sup> "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will  $\square$ worry about itself.  $\square$ Each day has enough trouble of its own.