

Golden Text—Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them.—Matthew 6 : 1.



1 Take heed that ye do not your alms be ore men, to be seen of them : otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

2 Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth :

4 That *thine* alms may be in secret : and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are* : for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret ; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do* : for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them : for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. 9 After this manner therefore pray ye : Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil : For *thine* is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. 14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you : 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus went on, in the Sermon on the Mount, to speak about giving to the poor. Many in those days gave their gifts in public places, like churches and street corners, so that people might see them and say how kind and generous they were. Jesus likened these to one who should blow a trumpet to gather the crowds, that they might behold his good deeds. "Verily I say unto you", said Jesus, "they have their reward. Others speak well of them, and they care more for this than they do for the approval of God." But Jesus' disciples were to be different from this. When they gave anything to the poor, they must not go about telling it. Indeed, they must do it so quietly, that even their left hand would not know what was done by their right.

And when they prayed to God, Jesus also said, they must not choose a place where others could see them, like the proud Pharisees, who loved to make long prayers in public places. But they must go into their own rooms and shut the door, so that only God would hear them. Then God would answer their prayers.

Nor were the disciples, when they prayed, to repeat over and over again words with no meaning, like the heathen, who thought they would be heard for their much speaking. "Your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask Him", said Jesus, "and so requires no long prayers."

Then Jesus taught His disciples a very simple, short prayer, which we now call "the Lord's Prayer". "When you pray to God", He