

## Neither Do They Spin

### **Matthew 6:26 – 7:29**

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~ This is the fourth report in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God from the Sermon on the Mount. The Lord Jesus Christ has left us with a whole lot of things we need to think over; and He isn't done yet. We examined material possessions previously, and the relationship of the believer to money and wealth, in general. This topic alone could span several more reports – but won't; although I would encourage you to continue the conversation with God in prayer before you continue reading. Most Christians would be comfortable never talking about money; and they seem content to simply scrape by with other spiritual debts as well. Either way, the Lord Jesus said a whole lot about money and stewardship. If you haven't read our last four reports I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

The Sermon on the Mount portrays the coming of the future Millennial Kingdom and our place in society within the New Jerusalem under God's law IN THAT DAY. This is the Kings Manifesto in this agonizingly lengthy so-called Sermon on the Mount! If we declare Christ as our Lord then we ought to know this and obey it. That doesn't mean we make this our religion because we cannot keep the laws we're reading – as we have thoroughly revealed in previous reports. If it were possible for you to keep all the laws contained in this Gospel record then you wouldn't even need the Lord Jesus as Savior and, my friend, you had BETTER be able to call Him Savior before you start running around calling Him Lord! It's blasphemy to call this passage in Matthew your religion and not regard His Merciful Salvation FIRST! David cried out, "...restore the joy of my salvation, oh, Lord!"

The externalities of the Sermon on the Mount should be very important for the believer; but if they're done the wrong way with a wrong heart then they become totally meaningless – except in that they are very dangerous and hurtful to our self and others. Our citizenship in Heaven will be revealed by the way we handle and react to these external acts of God's

righteousness. External acts of righteousness do not posit us on earth in any manner or imagination; we're merely allowing Christ to live through us – because that's what is natural for our new nature. That's how our new nature is empowered. It's not about acting out some rule on our own volition. The relationship between you and God is expressed by you in external acts of kindness, mercy, love and longsuffering that you allow Him to show to others through you. It is about Him! Not you. It's all about Christ!

Most people know I don't promote public prayer. It may have a place; but should be very brief and to the point. The biggest problem with public prayer is that the Lord Jesus Christ is never mentioned as the recipient of said prayer. When politicians pray and say, "...God" I have to wonder which of the forty-eight thousand "gods" they are praying to. Frankly, I doubt they even know which god they are attempting to channel. That's precisely why the deadest service in any church is the prayer meeting. You just can't assemble any religious function deader than a so-called prayer meeting. One cannot improve fifty spiritually dead saints praying by adding another hundred spiritually dead saints praying, friends. It's just not instructed us that way. I think Christ is asking most churches to cease and desist with prayer until they finally take the time to learn this book – the Word of God – properly, correctly and completely. What the world needs is a whole lot of private prayers between a Biblically literate individual and our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Everything else is just so much nothing.

God places fasting on the same basis as prayer - and fasting has a value, too – but not publicly; and not by those who are totally and completely ignorant of the Word of God to begin with! It is either a private personal matter based on Scripture - or it is utterly meaningless to God. We have been over this before in our safari. Fasting is actually a transaction between the SOUL and God – NOT your body; and, with that, the Lord brings us back to the subject of money again. Mammon has become most people's god today – including many well-meaning and otherwise good-intentioned self-professing believers. Mammon takes control of ones life very easily; and you won't serve both the True and Living God and mammon. The Bible says we will come to love one and DESPISE the other. That's a pretty strong word. The final analysis is that God says you will

either find money or Him intolerable in your life. You'll love one or the other; but not both. This is an absolute truth and fundamental precept from the Bible that we either take as the Word of God or we reject all things Scriptural in their entirety. God does not compromise with this precept. He does not want your money. He wants your heart. If He has your heart He will have your money, and He knows that.

The almighty dollar is the governing object in most Christians lives today; and covetousness is called idolatry by Paul, you may remember. We have no treasure here on earth except to put our money and assets towards the Lords work and by doing the Lords work. If what we are doing or supporting can be used by God it will be held in account for us in Heaven. That, by de facto, must include teaching sound doctrine from the entire Word of God to this entire lost and dying world. Outside of that parameter – your work is going to burn, my beloved. It can be legal tender in Heaven or just tinder – our choice. It's one or the other. You can just write that down....

## VI

***26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?***

~ Let's temper our understanding that the bird of the air couldn't sow or reap if they wanted to. They can't do many things that you and I can do. This passage means we are to do those things with trust and abandon - just as a bird does. A bird has no choice but to depend on God to take care of him. We ought to live our lives that way, too. Now, that doesn't mean we shouldn't exercise planning, caution and judgment; because God has given us certain things in this world to help enrich our lives. Man has insurance policies that we can buy to protect us against certain types of calamities. I see nothing wrong with an insurance policy on a car we can barely afford anyways. I mean, what if something were to happen? The important thing is that these things not become a burden to us in our spiritual lives; because that's what makes us better than birds. You might notice the bird eyes you suspiciously and carefully when you try to feed him; and most will simply fly away at first sight and reject your offer....

**27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?**

**28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:**

~ Consider the contemporary fashion industry of the world for both men and women. Think about the time and money that are consumed with design, manufacturing, promotion, sales and pageantry in the industry of clothing. When we have a closet full of clothes and nothing to wear we have a real problem, my beloved. The flowers CAN'T toil or spin - and they never really change - but God takes care of them, also. We will toil and we will spin – some of us are just going around in circles anyways – but the point is: let's not let it become burdensome to us. I NEVER get tired of doing the Lord's work. The Lord's work makes me tired, physically, but not tired of the content. This Spiritual Safari is the most thrilling, rewarding and exciting thing I have ever done in my life. That's why I am doing it a second time.

Now, just to be absolutely sure: I think we should all dress as appropriately stylish and clean as we can possibly afford to. The millionaire who wears flip-flops and shorts to a board meeting should be comfortable with his self-presentation to the Lord. If that's not in question then the dress isn't in question. Self-depravation does nothing for God, friends. God gave you the means of dress just as God made the flower. He did pretty well with the flower! I'm sure God wants color and beauty to the fullest extent we are able to offer. Some of us don't have much to work with – but I digress! I think we should do the best we can with what we have....

**29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.**

~ We're here today and gone tomorrow, my beloved; and God sees us all the way through. The Spirit of God wants to direct every step our camel train takes across this desert of life – just as He did for Abraham's servant who was sent to get a bride for Isaac. When I see a Christian who is overly anxious about the problems going on in the world – and constantly second-

guessing their every move - I know they have the wrong goals in life. I know this because their goal is not the Lord Jesus Christ. He says, "seek ye first the Kingdom of God and then, as He takes care of the flowers, He'll take care of YOU!" Well, it's either true or it isn't, friends. You either believe it or you don't. This peace of rest is contingent upon putting Christ FIRST in our lives, though. You'll never have rest or peace without Him. This is another axiom of truth that will never, ever change....

***30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?***

***31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?***

***32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.***

***33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***

***34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.***

## VII

~ Okay, this section of Scripture speaks about children of the King in relation to them dealing with other children of the King; and we see some very strong warnings. The modern-day church has developed some huge misconceptions and misunderstandings right off the bat in chapter seven at verse one. Contrary to popular belief this does NOT mean Christians are forbidden from judging others. Jesus also saith, "judge a righteous judgment." No, friends, this first verse means to decide and distinguish between; it doesn't mean to condemn, avenge and damn! This simply means we are not to judge the inward motive in the same sense as externalities or habits. We don't know why another person does what they did and do. All we see are outward acts. This also means we will be judged

by the same standard we judge with. So, if we have a handle on the Word of God and judge a righteous judgment in sound doctrine then we'll be judged accordingly. Every believer should be looking forward to that. If we have a warped and twisted theology of hypocrisy – we'll be judged by that standard! Wrong actions and evil actions are always to be condemned and avenged; but they must still be decided correctly and properly in prayer with the request to God being that of mercy and enlightenment towards the offender. If you're missing ANY of that in your prayers in this connection – then you have missed the mark altogether....

***1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.***

***2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.***

~ Jesus says that if we judge harshly we will also be judged harshly. It also says we will develop a reputation as that particular type of person. So, what about it, friends; may I say this kindly? – I have been judged by God – and harshly! There are certain people who say, “....watch out for that Andrew because he never has a good word for anyone.” Most people think I am a lonely, dark, bitter failure at life. I'm pretty sure nothing could be further from the truth than that. People don't see how they are being judged by the way they judge; but it certainly does work both ways – in ALL cases. The reason I wrote this all out as I have is to “....make sure it all works out on paper.” Well, it works out and it reduces the issues of our hearts to their lowest common denominator. Once we arrive at the correct calculus, together – we will agree. HOW we arrive at the same number may differ or vary – but the answer must be the same because the math of the Word of God works out as sure as  $1+1=2$ . It's that simple. Let's stop making it so overly complicated....

***3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?***

~ Of course, many people judge others and condemn them for the same faults and bad things they do. This is PARTICULARLY true in government and politics. Their lives are that of shamefully sheer and glaring lies and

hypocrisies. Here, God means one person sees a spec of spiritual saw dust is in their brother's eye and they feel compelled to perform surgery to remove it - yet they have a log sticking out of their head; which is a metaphor of the worst form of hypocrisy. That is exactly what the Lord Jesus is saying. We are in no position to judge, and we cannot determine the motives in another person's life for why they do or don't do certain things that they may or may not do unto the Lord until the Lord Jesus Christ rules and reigns through us and by us. Yes, that previous sentence is correct. You might want to turn it over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with....

***4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?***

***5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.***

~ Harsh judgment is certainly a matter we must be cautiously judicious of and reverently careful with. I must admit that when I fail to pray properly I say things I could have said a better way, most of the time. I think what the Lord Jesus means here is that we are not to sit in harsh judgment but, rather, in loving and caring judgment. Now, He also said, "by their fruits ye shall know them." So, we have to determine what fruit is good and what must go in the fire; and according to the late Dr. James McGinley, we are no judges of motive or intent – but we are fruit inspectors - and friends, I know the most superb of fruits when I see them. If you can rightly judge their fruit – you'll understand their motives, believe me. THEN, we can pray as Paul prayed, if need be, commending their flesh to Satan for destruction that their souls might be saved IN THAT DAY. Friends, I already know this is harsh. I have told you before that many will have to stop reading, turn back and follow Him no more....

***6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.***

~ It's not always easy to determine who the dogs are; and this is not the four legged animal we're looking at now. We have a judgment to make as to who the dogs are. We are not to cast our pearls before swine. I think almost everyone has heard that but, apparently, very few really know what it means. It necessarily means there is a judgment that you and I are to make as commanded by the Lord Jesus. There are people in places doing things where it would be an absolute waste of time to try to minister to or at. Contrary to popular belief, there are MANY places we shouldn't say a word.

There was a member of the Tennessee legislature many years ago who was a heavy drinker. One day he was miraculously and marvelously converted. His home was broken and his wife had already left him. He had "gotten religion" as the others called it. One cabinet member mockingly stood up on the floor of the Capitol one day and said, "...I vote we hear a sermon from Deacon So and So." Everyone laughed as this man rose to respond. He said, "...I'm sorry, I have nothing to say to any of you." See, that man didn't cast his pearls before swine. He wouldn't give that which was holy to dogs! He sat down and they never asked him to preach again. Many people never even spoke to him again.

There are certain people – particularly in the church – with whom you will find it absolutely futile to attempt to reason with. They already think they have the Bible figured out because they've had some dream or vision – and it just happens to be YOU who hasn't been spiritually enlightened. I have had people tell me I was putting God in a box when I insisted on Scripture as a premise. They think they have been endowed with the names of the kings of Israel by carrying the Bible around all the time - but they can't name three of them. The Word of God does these pigs no good, friends. Your best bet is to stay away from them altogether because you are wasting your time with them; and they are positively dangerous. You may think I am one hard boiled egg; and maybe I am - but I've worked with these make believers for several decades – I know them as they are – they're pigs. So, it would seem as if we are on the horns of a dilemma as we are told not to judge but we have to judge to obey the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ? If you aren't going to cast your pearls before swine - you'll necessarily need to make a judgment call....



***7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:***

***8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.***

~ So, let's suppose we've met some new person. How are we to treat them? Are we to judge them immediately? How do we know if we are dealing with a swine or a dog? Have you ever asked God how you should deal with other people? It's a good idea because if you do not begin every single day in Bible study and prayer you aren't going to know who's who until it's too late. The people we can help we want to put our arms around and help them; but there are some people you're going to meet who will rob you and kill you if they get half a chance. Some seemingly very nice people will stab you in the back the moment you turn around. We've all been taken by others before. It can be very difficult to tell who the pigs are. We don't have the spiritual discernment about lies and intentions unless we ask God to bring them to our knowledge in His Word. This is one carry over from the early church gifts I can agree that we can still have: discernment of spirits; BUT ONLY if led by the Holy Spirit in prayer as we grow in the knowledge and grace of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Apparently, God wants to help us with this stuff because He says....

***9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?***

***10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?***

***11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?***

***12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.***

***13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:***

***14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.***

~ The pictures men have painted depicting this Bible scene looks like Broadway in New York where everyone is having fun out on one side of the street while a laborious looking few trudge down what appears to be some bike path to nowhere on the other side. Well, that isn't exactly the picture we have before us in the Bible. Let's envisage a canyon for a moment. The way of death starts out open – and very wide; and we can easily begin a journey from the wide mouth of the canyon; but it continues to become narrower and narrower until it dead-ends in death. That's the way of the world today. The way to God, on the other hand, starts out the opposite with a very narrow way – only One way – to God; through the Lord Jesus Christ. However, once we are in Christ our ways and opportunities open up to endless possibilities. Christ came to the world so that we might have life more abundantly. We're following a little stream right now that leads to Living Waters – an ocean, if you will – of life. Every day you walk with God your possibilities abound more and more....

***15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.***

***16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?***

***17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.***

***18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.***

***19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.***

**20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**

**21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

**22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

**23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

**24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:**

**25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**

**26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:**

**27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

**28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:**

~ We can run around mouthing off about how Christian we are but how about our DOING? Are we DOING these commandments of Christ today? If you want to do His will you're going to start with recognizing that you are a sinner who needs a Savior; and then recognizing only Him as your Savior. When we turn to Christ and trust Him then He is the Foundation on which we build. No other foundation can any man lay than that which is already laid, which is Jesus Christ! When we come to God His way we can build on that Foundation and we can build a Christian life that has fruit in it. Amazingly, none of this is done by our own effort - but by the Holy Spirit

working in and through our lives. Christ can then produce fruit, form gold and create precious stones and silver in our lives.

The other house is built on sand. The “sand” is the shifty instability of human goodness and our own human effort. Human strength and effort only exposes the weakness of the flesh. Friends, you need something better than what YOU have to offer today. We will do well to realize that we haven’t ANYTHING to say; unless we can speak with the absolute truth and authority of Holy Writ. That means you’ll have to believe it. That means you’ll have to know it. We cannot believe what we don’t fully understand. We certainly cannot teach what we do not know. I have considered all of man’s theories and philosophies and they are either wanting, contradictory or just plain absurd – not to mention that most have never been tried! God calls them fools and fools know nothing about Christ. Today, I have a message to give and that message includes the Gospel of Matthew. I know salvation works because it worked in my case. We also have the witness of others throughout the ages. Only by coming to Christ can we understand the glorious depths of Scripture. This is all very applicable for us today. If we read this all correctly it’s going to lead us to a Person – the Person of the Lord Jesus.

Someday, when we go into the presence of Christ, we’re all going to suddenly and shamefully realize that all we can really say is, “...Lord, I failed you.” We must realize we cannot keep these commands in our own strength; and we are guilty! We have fallen short of the standard of God and we need His mercy. When we recognize we need Him as our Savior then He gives us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is only sent so that HE might produce these things in our lives. Today, mankind is building. Where and on what are you building your eternal home? Is it on the Rock of Christ or the shifting sands of the world? Our good works don’t save us but they sure do demonstrate to others what kind of fruit tree we are and what kind of house we’re building. The shifting sand won’t stand in the hurricane of His judgment. Oh, friends that you might be brought to Christ while He teaches us at the Sermon on the Mount....

***29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes ~***

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