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Next Weeks Lesson: "Take My Yoke upon You, and Learn of Me." ([Matthew 11:28-30](#); [Matthew 12:1-13](#); [Luke 7:36-50](#); [13:10-17](#))

Today's Lesson: "Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God" ([Matthew 6-7](#))

1. Elder William R. Bradford of the Seventy once spoke with the bishop of a ward whose youth had worked to earn money for an activity. The bishop asked Elder Bradford if he would help the youth get some recognition for what they had done. To the bishop's surprise, Elder Bradford said he would not. He said that he was glad that the young people had worked hard, but that it was not important that they receive public recognition for that work. When the youth decided to donate their money to the Church's general missionary fund instead of using it for the activity, they wanted to have their picture taken with Elder Bradford as they made the donation, and they wanted to have the picture and an article put into the newspaper. Again Elder Bradford surprised them by saying "no." He told the bishop: "You might consider helping your young people learn a higher law of recognition. Recognition from on high is silent. It is carefully and quietly recorded there. Let them feel the joy and gain the treasure in their heart and soul that come from silent, selfless service" (in [Conference Report, Oct. 1987](#))
2. As we read the following scripture passages, consider what we need to do to become a more dedicated and sincere disciple of Christ. In the spaces below, make note of some qualities that you would like to develop in your quest.

A.	
B.	
C.	
D.	

3. [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#) True disciples do right things for right reasons.



- A. Why did Jesus condemn some people for doing good things such as giving alms (giving to the poor), praying, and fasting? Jesus referred to these people as hypocrites. What is a hypocrite?" ([Matthew 15:8](#); [Luke 11:39](#))
- B. What will be the reward for people who do good things to be seen by others? What things might we do to be seen by others instead of to please God?

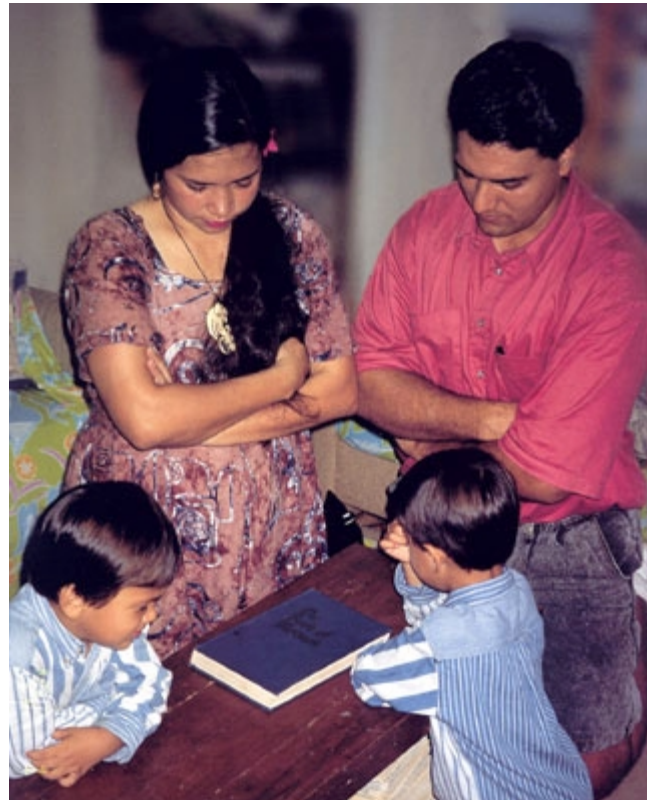
How can we purify our motives for serving and performing other good works?

- C. In this sermon, what did Jesus teach about what we should value most?

- D. What does it mean to “lay up . . . treasures in heaven”?
- E. What are some heavenly treasures we can seek? ([D&C 18:14–16](#) and [130:18–19](#))
- F. What does it mean that “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”?
- G. How can we determine what we treasure?

**4. True disciples follow the Savior’s example of prayer. ([Matthew 6:7–13](#); [7:7–11](#))**

- A. What does the Lord’s Prayer teach us about how we should pray?
- B. How does the Lord’s Prayer show Jesus’ reverence and respect for Heavenly Father?
- C. Elder Dallin H. Oaks commented on the kind of language we should use when we pray: “The special language of prayer follows different forms in different languages, but the principle is always the same. We should address prayers to our Heavenly Father in words which speakers of that language associate with love and respect and reverence and closeness. Men and women who wish to show respect will take the time to learn the special language of prayer” ([Ensign, May 1993](#))
- D. How can we avoid using “vain repetitions” when we pray?
- E. Since Heavenly Father knows what we need before we pray, why do we need to pray?
- F. How are we to understand the Savior’s promise that “every one that asketh receiveth”?
- G. Why do we sometimes not receive what we ask for at the time we ask for it or in the way we would like it? ([3 Nephi 18:20](#))
- H. How have you learned that God knows what is best for you?



**5. True disciples treat others kindly and fairly ([Matthew 6:14–15](#); [7:1–6, 12](#))**

- A. Why do you think the Savior commands us to forgive others? How can we become more forgiving?
- B. The Joseph Smith Translation amends [Matthew 7:1](#) to read, “Judge not unrighteously, that ye be not judged; but judge righteous judgment” ([Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 7:2](#)). What is righteous judgment?



- C. What harm can come to us and to those we judge if we judge unrighteously?
- D. How can we ensure that we judge righteously? ([Moroni 7:14–18](#))
- E. The teaching in [Matthew 7:12](#) is often called the Golden Rule. What experiences have shown you the value of this principle? How does following the Golden Rule make us better disciples of Jesus Christ?
- F. Elder Marvin J. Ashton described a meeting in which a group of Church members considered the

question “How can you tell if someone is converted to Jesus Christ?” For forty-five minutes those in attendance made numerous suggestions in response to this question, and the leader carefully wrote down each answer on a large chalkboard. All of the comments were thoughtful and appropriate. But after a time, this great teacher erased everything he had written. Then, acknowledging that all of the comments had been worthwhile and appreciated, he taught a vital principle: ‘The best and most clear indicator that we are progressing spiritually and coming unto Christ is the way we treat other people.’” Elder Ashton added: “The way we treat the members of our families, our friends, those with whom we work each day is as important as are some of the more noticeable gospel principles we sometimes emphasize” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1992, 25; or [Ensign, May 1992, 20](#)).

**6. True disciples serve God and do his will ([Matthew 6:22–34](#); [7:13–29](#))**

- A. Why is it impossible to serve both God and mammon, or worldliness?
- B. What blessings does God promise to those who serve him? ([Matthew 6:25–33](#); [D&C 11:7](#))
- C. Jesus promised that if we “seek . . . first the kingdom of God,” we will be given all other things that we need ([Matthew 6:33](#)). What experiences have helped you gain a testimony of this promise?
- D. How does worldliness turn our loyalty and service away from God?



- E.** What are some ways we might be tempted to seek the things of the world before the things of God?
- F.** As Jesus neared the end of his sermon, what did he teach about entering the kingdom of heaven? ([Matthew 7:13–14, 21–23](#)) Why is it significant that the way to eternal life is narrow, while the way to destruction is broad?
- G.** At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the parable of the wise man and the foolish man ([Matthew 7:24–27](#)). How does this parable apply to us?
- H.** What is the “rock” on which we should build? ([Helaman 5:12](#))
- I.** What do some people build their lives on that might be comparable to sand?