

SOTM pt1 – Structured to Win

[Mat 6:3-4, 6, 18 NASB95] 3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you. ... 6 "But 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. ... 18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.

- Louisville basketball (Congrats to UK fans.) Beating the spread. How about winning the game?!
- What are we doing? Playing games with God. Aimless in our pursuit. The goal is to win with God.
- We go through the motions of life without realizing that God wants us to succeed with Him. The goal is not to survive another day. Have a mediocre marriage. Raise law-abiding children. The goal is to know Him and receive everything He has for us. (More on this later.)
- One theme seen throughout the Sermon on the Mount is that God wants us to win. It starts with "Blessed..." (Matt. 5:3). It teaches us what losing looks and acts like. Shows us that God wants to answer prayer. Have our lives full of peace. To have us be able to withstand any storm. Winning!
- SOTM shows us that disciplines (structures) must be in our lives to help us win.
- We see these in Matthew 6.

What does Matthew 6 show us about being structured to win?

We learn three aspects of being structured to win from Matthew 6.

I. God wants our mindset to change which helps us to win.

- a. We are not to go through the motions.
- b. [Phl 3:12-14 NASB95] 12 Not that I have already obtained [it] or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of [it] yet; but one thing [I do:] forgetting what [lies] behind and reaching forward to what [lies] ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- c. We want more of God. We are going after Him and all that He has for us!

II. God wants us to develop habits that help us to win.

- a. You are far more disciplined than you realize. Are your habits getting you closer to be spiritually structured to win?
- b. [1Co 9:23-27 NASB95] 23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but [only] one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then [do it] to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
- c. Give, pray, fast, share your faith, faithful to church, study the Bible, and so forth are disciplines that help us to be spiritually structured to win.

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III. God wants us to know that He has a reward for us (win).

- a. When you give... Jesus expects us to give, expecting a reward.
 - b. When you pray... Jesus expects us to pray, expecting a reward.
 - c. When you fast... Jesus expects us to fast, expecting a reward.
 - d. [Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 - e. [Mal 3:14 NASB95] 14 "You have said, 'It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?"
 - f. God's reward is what we mean when we talk about winning.
 - g. Develop faith to receive everything God has for you.
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- **God wants our lives to be structured to win.**
 - **Gift for head of households.**
 - **Prayer for those fasting.**
 - **Baptisms.**