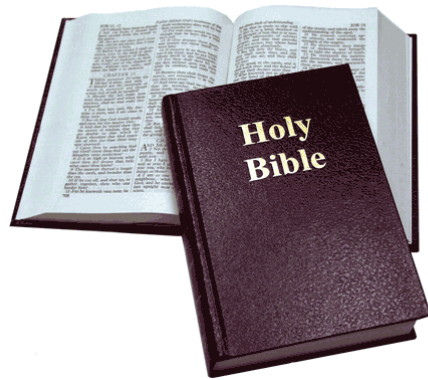


The Sermon on the Mount

STUDY 19

Reading: Matthew 6:16-18



Fasting

Home Fellowship Group Bible Study Questions

Tuesday 5th/Wednesday 6th November 2013

- 1) Our passage begins with the word 'and'. *Does this imply a direct connection with the theme of the previous passage and if so, are there other scriptures to back this up?*
- 2) As in both previous themes in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus introduces His teaching with the words: 'when' rather than 'if'. *What would His Jewish listeners understand about the requirements of fasting?*
- 3) In verses 16-17 Jesus contrasts two different approaches to fasting. *What does this teach us about the subject?*

The final two questions explore whether fasting is relevant today for the Christian.

- 4) Does the New Testament teach us that we should continue to fast today?
- 5) What would be our reasons and occasions for fasting today?

"Our seasons of fasting and prayer at the [Metropolitan] Tabernacle have been high days indeed; never has heaven's gate stood wider; never have our hearts been nearer the central Glory"
(Charles Spurgeon).