



# Practice Makes Perfect

## Matthew 6:14-23

### GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

[Words & Music by: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, 1955; Harmony by Charles H. Webb, 1987  
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Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Parent, children all are we.  
Let us go with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

### Hear the Story...

### READING

- **Read Text aloud [standing, sitting, walking – but don't go far away]**
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

### RESPONDING

- **How does ‘forgiveness’ work and who does the forgiving?**
- **What is accomplished by fasting?**
- **What are the kinds of ‘treasure’ Jesus is referring to?**
- **What does Jesus’ metaphor of an ‘eye’ represent?**

### SHARING

- **What assumption is made about fasting that is consistent with Jesus’ teachings about prayer and offerings?**
- **How do you define “spirituality”?**

### CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Matthew 6:14-23 [NRSV]

[Jesus said,]

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

15 but if you do not forgive others,  
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

16 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites,  
for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,

18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others

but by your Father who is in secret;

and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

19 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,

where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust consumes

and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 'The eye is the lamp of the body.

So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light;

23 but if your eye is unhealthy,

your whole body will be full of darkness.

If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!