

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday, Years A, B, and C, RCL

add critical comments

¹[Jesus said] “ **Beware** [προσέχετε, **proséchte**] of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand **know** [γνώτω, **gnōtō**] what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret, will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, **go** [εἴσελθε, **eiselthe**] into your room and shut the door and **pray** [πρόσευξαι, **próseuxai**] to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, **do not look** [γίνεσθε, **gínesthe**], 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, **put oil on** [ἄλειψαί, **áleipsai**] your head and **wash** [νίψαι, **nípsai**] your face, ¹⁸so 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** [θησαυρίζετε, **thēsaurízete**] for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but **store up** [θησαυρίζετε, **thēsaurízete**] for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” [NRSV89]

6:1

προσέχετε, **proséchte**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from προσέχω:

translations: **beware** [NRSV89, ESV, NRSVue], also **be careful** [NGEINT, NIV11, NJB],

take care [NAB], **take heed** [NKJV], **cuidaos (de)** [IAdNT]

6:3

γνώτω, **gnōtō**; *vb: 2nd aor act imperative 3rd pers sg* from γινώσκω:

translations: **know** [NRSV89], **do** [not] **let . . . know** [ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue], **must** [not] **know** [NJB], also **conozca** [IAdNT]

6:6

εἴσελθε, **eíselthe**; *vb: 2nd aor act imperative 2nd pers sg* from εἰσέρχομαι:

translations: **go** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **enter** [NGEINT], **entra** [IAdNT]

πρόσευξαι, **próseuxai**; *vb: aor mid imperative 2nd pers sg* from προσεύχομαι:

translations: **pray** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **ora** [IAdNT]

6:16

γίνεσθε, **gínesthe**; *vb: pres mid / pass imperative 2nd pers pl* from γίνομαι:

translations: **do** [not] **look** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NIV11, NRSVue], also **do** [not] **be** [NGEINT, NKJV], **do** [not] **put on** [NJB], **seâis** [IAdNT]

6:17

ἀλειψαί, **áleipsai**; *vb: aor mid imperative 2nd pers sg* from ἀλείφω:

translations: **put . . . on** [NRSV89, NIV11, NRSVue], also **anoint** [ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV], **unge** [IAdNT]

νίψαι, **nípsai**; *vb: aor mid imperative 2nd pers sg* from νίπτω:

translations: **wash** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **lava** [IAdNT]

6:19

θησαυρίζετε, **thēsaurízete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from θησαυρίζω:

translations: **store up** [NRSV89, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NRSVue], also **lay up** [ESV, NKJV], **atesoréis** [IAdNT]

6:20

θησαυρίζετε, **thēsaurízete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from θησαυρίζω:

translations: **store up** [NRSV89, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NRSVue], also **lay up** [ESV, NKJV], **atesorad** [IAdNT]

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, continued

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