

Hungering for God through Fasting
Matthew 9:14-17
August 23, 2015

Do you miss God when He is gone?

Do you hunger for God?

Have you ever heard a sermon on fasting?

Fasting is the expression of our intense longing for more of God.

What is a Fast?

When should we fast?

What does fasting accomplish?

Subdues our physical desires.

Fans the flames of our devotions.

Bears witness to our sincere repentance.

Bears witness to our sincere longing for the presence and blessing of God.

Jesus is establishing his authority as king in this section of Matthew.

Jesus and his disciples are charged with easy living on two grounds.
They eat with tax collectors and sinners, and they do not fast.

Pharisees fasted twice a week. (Luke 18:12).

John's disciples fasted often as well.

Why did Jesus' disciples not fast?

1) They did fast, only not publicly. Matthew 6:16-18

2) This was the time of joy and celebration for the groom is present.

When will Jesus' disciples fast?

"When he is taken from them."

The already and not yet of New Testament eschatology.

What do these illustrations teach us?

There is a distinctly Christian way to fast.

Do not fast if ...

Do fast if ...

There is power in faithful, fasting prayer.