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# LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

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The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18 "An Audience of One"

# Meet the Parents





“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matthew

6:1-8,

16-18

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give



to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew

6:1-8,

16-18

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray,



go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew  
6:1-8,  
16-18

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

[The Lord's Prayer]



Matthew  
6:1-8,  
16-18

... “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



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Matthew  
5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



Matthew  
6:1

Beware of practicing your  
righteousness before other  
people **in order to be seen by  
them**, for then you will have no  
reward from your Father who is  
in heaven.



Matthew  
6:2

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the **hypocrites** do ...

Matthew  
6:5

And when you pray, do not be like the **hypocrites** ...

Matthew  
6:16

When you fast, do not look somber as the **hypocrites** do ...





evil disguised as good



evil disguised as good

faults obvious to others





evil disguised as good

faults obvious to others



deceives others & self



Scot  
McKnight

What Jesus aims at is the self-deceit that weaves itself into the fabric of a person's spirituality in which there is not only a notice-me approach, but also an inability to know that the problem is present. ... We have to be careful about passing judgment on the motivations behind what people do and look beyond the surface. For example, we can see someone dancing during praise and immediately come



Scot  
McKnight

to the conclusion that they're doing it just to get attention, but they may be sincere in what they're doing. This goes to the deepest secret places of our heart. ... To develop a before-God-alone approach to piety we must become more introspective, asking "Why am I doing this?" and "Who is watching me?" We also need to ask about our pleasures: "What is it about this religious deed that brings me pleasure?"



Dallas  
Willard

When we want human approval and esteem, and do what we do for the sake of it, God courteously stands aside because, by our wish, it does not concern him.



C. S.  
Lewis

There are different kinds of rewards. There is the reward which has no natural connection with the things you do to earn it and is quite foreign to the desires that ought to accompany those things. Money is not the natural reward of love; that is why we call a man mercenary if he marries a woman for the sake of her money. But marriage is the proper reward for a real lover, and he is not mercenary for desiring it.



The journey of following  
Jesus begins or ends on how  
we answer this question:

**Who is your audience?**

**RELIGION AS  
RELATIONSHIP**

**RELIGION AS  
PERFORMANCE**





Matthew  
6:3-4

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Matthew  
6:6

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Matthew  
6:17-18

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Richard  
Foster

Nothing *disciplines* the inordinate desires of the flesh like service, and nothing *transforms* the desires of the flesh like serving in hiddenness. The flesh whines against service but screams against hidden service. It strains and pulls for honor and recognition. It will devise subtle, religiously acceptable means to call attention to the service rendered.

