

Series: Upside-Down Kingdom
Passage: Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-18
Saturday: June 8, 2024

Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-18 (ESV)

Giving to the Needy

6 “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.

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Prayer

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Fasting

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

1. When was a situation that your motives in doing something were more important than the act itself?

2. Why is it so important to give in secret? What are the dangers of not giving in secret?

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3. What is your biggest struggle in prayer? What is the purpose of Jesus instruction to pray in a closed room?
4. What is the purpose of fasting? Why do you think that fasting is often ignored among Christians today?
5. Why does God want you to be motivated by reward in heaven in these three disciplines?
6. How can you know when you are acting to be seen by others and when you are letting your light shine before others?
7. We are all hypocrites in some way (even small ways) in our lives. How can we address this?