Look at Me!

Adam Willingham · Matthew 6:1–18

INTRODUCTION

- Nowhere does Jesus get nearer to the marrow of the bone than he does here in the heart of this Sermon on the Mount when he addresses our motives.
- Really, what we need to ask is, Am I becoming more and more like my Father?
- If we're not fixing the root problem, then we're going to continue to have those same symptoms.

1 Beware of Practicing Your Righteousness Before Men

Matthew 6:1; Matthew 5:3; Matthew 6:33

- Jesus condemns prideful motives for serving God.
- Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.
- We must not serve God in order to be noticed by people.
- The issue is whether we're going to serve God or whether we're going to serve ourselves.
- So it's not just what we do, it's why we do it.

2 Giving to the Poor

Matthew 6:2–4; Philippians 3:13–14

- When you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men.
- It's not a matter of where to give, really. What's at the heart of this is motive.
- It's a choice between whether we're gonna do God's will or our will, whether our service to God is done for our sake or to elevate God.
- Forget about those good things that you did yesterday and all the time before in your life. They don't matter anymore.
- We need to guard against Phariseism as much as we need to guard against anything else.

3 Prayer: The Motive and the Manner

Matthew 6:5–15; Luke 6:12

- But you, when you pray, go into your inner room. Close your door and pray to your father who's in secret.
- The point here is motive. What is our motive for our praying?
- When you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition. As the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.
- It's fine to say those words as long as we think about what we really mean when we're saying them.
- It was a simple prayer from the heart.

4 Whenever You Fast

Matthew 6:16–18; Acts 13:2; Acts 14:23

- Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting.
- But fasting is one of the hardest things for people to know that you're doing.
- They might as well have had a sticker on their back that said, Please ask me why I'm fasting.
- We all have to battle pride. And we all have to be careful that we don't become Pharisees.

5 The Sin Is Whether One Wants to Be Seen

Matthew 5:14–16; Matthew 6:20; Matthew 5:6

- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your fathers in heaven.
- So the sin is not whether one is seen practicing righteousness, but whether one wants to be seen.
- Are we seeking to please men or are we seeking to please God?
- If pleasing God and pleasing God alone is our goal, then he will reward us, even when nobody else sees what we're doing.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So, brethren, don't serve yourself when you come to serve God. Serve God. And forget about yourself.**

MY NOTES