Our Righteousness – Right or Wrong?

David Norfleet · Matthew 6:1–18

INTRODUCTION

- Do we love God? Do we truly love God? Or do we merely love the idea of loving God?
- This question has to do with motivation, doesn't it? Why we do the things that we do.

1 A Busy Church That Left Its First Love

Jeremiah 17:9; Revelation 2:1–7

- The prophet Jeremiah makes a comment about all men's hearts, that it is a deceitful place.
- But I have this against you. You have left your first love.
- It's a busy church, active in the service to the Lord.
- Their attitude toward Christ, so everything they were involved in, it wasn't because of their love for God.
- They were just merely being busy. They loved the idea of being in love with God.

2 Was It Actually for Me That You Fasted?

Zechariah 7:1–7

- Shall I weep in the fifth month and abstain as I have done these many years?
- When you fasted and when you mourned in the fifth and seventh month these seventy years, was it actually for me that you fasted?
- What's at the heart of that question is that is the supposition that I command this? Or is this something you made up on your own?
- Isn't what you do centered on man? Is it truly focused on God or is it for your own benefit?
- He had told them what he required. He had told them how to honor him.

3 Fasting So They Can Obligate God to Act

Isaiah 58:1–7

- Yet they seek me day by day and delight to know my ways, as a nation that has done righteousness and has not forsaken the ordinance of their God.
- Why have we fasted and you do not see? Why have we humbled ourselves and you do not notice?
- They're fasting so they can obligate God to act for them.
- People who would come on the Lord's day to offer worship to him, but on Monday, they cheat and they steal and they rob.
- It wasn't easy, but it wasn't motivated out of a love for God.

4 Practicing Your Righteousness Before Men

Matthew 6:1–18

- Beware of practicing your righteousness before men, to be noticed by them. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.
- He mentions three different areas where people are actively serving God, but every one of these areas in this warning, they're doing it for the wrong reasons.
- Are we acting so people will see me? Are we acting so people will see God?
- Sometimes we act, we even worship, we even do religious service so we can get a benefit out of it.
- If we start serving him with a mercenary attitude that if I just serve him enough, I'm just going to get a little bit more.

5 Because God Is a Loving Father

Romans 5:8

- Why did you come this morning? Why did I come this morning?
- We recognize that God is a loving Father who has done so much for us.
- Brethren, I implore you by the mercies of God, the manifold mercies of God, to do what? To present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice.
- Act because God first acted, and you recognize that, and you love him, and you want to serve him.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Do you truly love God? Or do you merely love the idea of loving God?**

MY NOTES