

Remove the Mask

DAVE D'ANGELO | YOUR KINGDOM COME WEEK 6

MATTHEW 6:1-9, 16-18

Four Objectives:

1. Read the Scripture and explore what Jesus was addressing then.
2. Explore ways that the things Jesus addressed then are happening now.
3. Clear up what Jesus wasn't saying.
4. Articulate something deep Jesus is inviting us to.

Jesus' thesis/main idea: beware of practicing your righteousness in other people just to be seen by them.

How do we do this today? How do we "practice our righteousness?"

Practicing our righteousness today:

- **Calculated vulnerability:** "Clean dirty," when you're more interested in looking vulnerable without actually being it
- **Spiritual virtue signaling:** Watch your eyes. Are you paying attention to the need or to the crowd?
 - **Virtue signaling:** The public expression of opinions or sentiments intended to demonstrate one's good character or social conscience or one's moral authority.
 - Meaningful v. meaningless
 - Only you can know your heart. Is it hollow?
- **Depends on who I am around**
- **Heavenly points**
- **Touting an older spiritual resume**

What Jesus isn't saying:

- Jesus is saying that "practicing righteousness" should only be to and for God, not to and for each other.
 - Litmus test: Why am I doing this? Is it for God or for others to see?

What is the deeper meaning Jesus is getting at?

- **Choose your rewarder wisely.**
- The best reward is found in the secret, humble place.

MATTHEW 6:1-9, 16-18

- Sometimes we avoid a low place because we feel like no one will see it.
- God dwells in the secret, humble place. We must be willing to humble ourselves and go low, forgetting others' own opinions.

If I am only concerned with the reward you will give me, I will shortchange the reward I experience in this life.

Reward of man: affirmation, reputation, better "station"

- We often choose this reward because we believe it will improve our station.
- This reward is always fleeting and based on you and your performance. There will always be someone else a little bit ahead, and you will spend your life striving.

Reward of God: lasting, fulfilling, freedom, peace, joy, strength in the face of storms

- Never based on you, only placed on you.
- All we have to do is trust in it and expect and wait for it in the secret place.
- Secret place: humble things that are opposite of this world's culture

Categories of the secret place God is calling us to:

1. Our schedule and our money

- **Sabbath:** Stillness when we get to be with our Father and rest, create margin
 - Way of the world: busyness, avoid boredom at all costs
- **Generosity:** helps us understand what true contentment looks like through giving and serving
 - Way of this world: acquiring more and more

2. Prayer

- Prayer for our real needs
 - Fear of man: Concern in looking needy or weak if we seek out prayer
- God is wooing us and calling us to share our prayer needs with others. We don't have to carry this alone.

MATTHEW 6:9-13, ESV

Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

