

Intro: For the last couple of weeks we have been walking through the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest preacher to ever preach... Jesus! This whole sermon, is changing the framework of the audience. They have been taught and have believed this way of doing things their whole life and Jesus is coming in and not changing it up, but changing their perspective, goals... Framework! A lot of the “Religious Leaders” were the ones leading them astray, so Jesus is preaching the truth! The very people that knew the most about Jesus were the ones that were leading them away from him... How Crazy!

1. Be Authentic (2,5,16)

All throughout our passage tonight we see repetition of something... and usually when we see repetition in the Bible, it's because we need to pay close attention to something!

- vs 2 “Thus when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you as the hypocrites.”

- vs 5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.”

- vs 16 “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.”

- Let's remember who the hypocrites are... last week we looked at a passage in Matthew 23... lets look back there. **Matthew 23:2-5...** So what were they doing wrong? Everything they did was to bring attention and glory to themselves (Phylacteries & Tassels)
- So what does our passage call us to do? To pursue a life of righteousness... To give to the needy and to pray and to fast but to make sure that your heart is to do these things for God's Glory and not your own! Give to the needy without other people having to see, pray in a secret room, fast without looking gloomy to show that you're fasting!
- **(Celebrity Analogy)**
- Some may ask... So wait, I'm not supposed to pray or do anything for God in public? Yes you absolutely are, as we saw in Matthew 5:14 last week! We want to be a light on a hill... but we want that light to be Christ and not us!

2. Prayer Reveals Our Hearts (5-14)

- Not only does Jesus give us wisdom on how our heart should be set when we pray... he gives us an actual practical prayer that incorporates all aspects of prayer that we ever need! This is “The Lord's Prayer”... we've probably all heard it at some point in our lives and most of us have probably been tasked with memorizing it at some point!
- If our heart is truly fixed on Jesus then our prayers should be modeled like this. The hypocrites were trying to sound smart and super spiritual in their prayers... but Jesus says there is no need... Why? Because the Father knows our prayers before we pray them... **he knows your needs... he knows your wants... he knows your burdens... your trials... your cares... your struggles... he knows them all!**
- So why pray then? Because God wants us to show our need, love and thankfulness to him! Let's look at the aspects of the Lord's prayer real quick...

- **Part 1: Hallowed be your name, your Kingdom Come, your will be done...** All of these are the most crucial parts of our relationship with God. When we pray, before we ask or plead we need to acknowledge God for who he is... that his great name be exalted, honored and seen as Holy! Then our greatest desire should be that the sovereign reign and plan of the lord is done through his kingdom and through his will! These aspects of prayer rid ourselves of any room to bring glory to ourselves and our interest!
- **Part 2: Daily Bread, Forgive us our debts, Lead us not into temptation...** Jesus then gives them aspects of casting our needs and wants onto God! These are good things... God wants us to do this... but with the knowledge that these daily bread provisions, as we would call them, are given to allow us to complete the first three aspects of the prayer! We thank the Lord for our daily bread because us having food to energize our bodies gives us the ability to hallow the name of the Lord. Being forgiven of our debts clears us to be able to seek the will of the Father. Being delivered from temptation allows us to be pure and to glorify God.
- **John Piper says, "In eternity we will forever Hallow the name of the Lord... Hallowing the name of the Lord is not a means to an end... it is the end!"**
 - Our ultimate goal in life and eternity... our hearts greatest desire should be for the name of the Lord to be made great. Our prayers often times have other intentions... I'm guilty, we're all guilty... as we look to reform our prayer lives we need to make sure that everything we pray is so that we can Hallow the name of the Lord greater!

3. Our Faithfulness = Our Reward

- We see more repetition in this passage... about rewards. As Jesus changes there framework about how to do all of these things with the right heart, he also gives them warning!
- He says that doing these things for mans approval results in an awful tragedy... let's see what the passage says!
 - 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for you will have no reward from your father who is in heaven."
 - 6:2 "Truly I say to you, they have received their reward."
 - 6:5b "Truly I say to you, they have received their reward."
 - 6:6b "And your Father who sees you in secret will reward you."
 - 6:16b "Truly I say to you, they have received their reward."
 - 6:18b "And your Father who sees you in secret will reward you."
- The most heart breaking thing I can think of is when we reach the end of this life and hear from the Father that he has nothing for us... because our reward for the things we did was given to us by the men we chose to seek approval from rather than God!
- They may say "but I did this, I did that all in your name... I went to church, I prayed in front of people, I went on mission trips, I sang in the choir" Fill in the blank... but the issue was it wasn't for the right reasons... It wasn't so that God would be glorified, it was so you could be glorified. Remember the scribes and Pharisees knew more about the bible and about God than anyone... but they got to the end of their life and received no heavenly reward! How sad! But there is hope! Luckily, we have the greatest sermon ever preached by Jesus himself to warn us and call us to reflect!

Takeaways/Reflections

- Be Authentic
- Look to Hallow the name of the Lord in every aspect of life
- Examine your hearts intentions