



Growth Group Questions
October 8, 2023
“A Posture of Humility”

Context:

As we move into chapter 6 Jesus continues to talk about righteousness. Previously his comments about righteousness were around issues like kindness, purity, and love. In Matthew 6:1-18 righteousness revolves around ideas like giving to the needy, praying and fasting. These three acts express our duty to others (needy), God (prayer), and ourselves (fasting).

Jesus warns about a righteousness that seeks attention from others - a righteousness that wants the praise of the world. There is a righteousness that can be damaging and self-centered. In these verses Jesus is seeking to address the motivation of our righteousness. Do we do it for the praise of others, or for the praise of God? Jesus seems to imply that there is some sort of reward from God when we practice our righteousness in private (see verses 1, 4).

The religious leaders wanted the praise of the people. John the Baptist had said, “I must decrease and he must increase” when he spoke of Jesus. However, the religious leaders did not follow that line of thinking.

Thus, Jesus says the religious leaders are hypocrites. In the Greek, the word for hypocrite has to do with an actor who puts on a mask to play a part. The Pharisees were putting on a mask and pretending that they were righteous. They may have gotten the people’s praise, but Jesus says that is the only reward they are going to get.

When a follower of Jesus helps the needy, they do it in secret. They do not make a big deal out of it. Jesus says your left hand should not know what your right hand is doing. Our giving is to be marked by sacrifice and forgetfulness, not congratulations. Our calling as disciples is to humble ourselves and seek to serve God in our words and actions.



Scripture:

Matthew 6:1-4

¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Galatians 1:10

¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

James 4:10

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Psalms 25:8-9

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.



Questions:

1. The title of this week's sermon is "A Posture of Humility." What is humility? Why is humility a prerequisite for Christ followers?
2. In Matthew 6:1, we are told to "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them." Yet, two weeks ago when we studied Matthew 5:13-16, we read that we were to "Let your light shine before others so they may see your good deeds." How do you reconcile these two statements?
3. What people in the Bible do you believe demonstrated a posture of humility and what can we learn from them?
4. Think of someone whom you believe has a posture of humility. What characterizes their life?
5. Pastor Paul said we should focus on living our lives before an Audience of One. What does that mean to you? What does it look like to live your life in this way?
6. James 4:10 says "Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up." What does it mean to humble yourself before the Lord?
7. How does a person who is humble live differently from person who is prideful?
8. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus tells us to "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. . ." What is it that Jesus wants us to learn from Him?
9. What are some practical ways in which we can ensure that we are maintaining a posture of humility?

