



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: Kingdom Heart Cry
TEXT: Matthew 6:1-6, & 16-18

DATE: February 14, 2021
SPEAKER: Pastor Brian Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- **How did you push the boundaries of gracious living this week?**
- What are one or two ways (good or bad) that you are like your parents?

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Bold indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- The original use of the term “hypocrite” in Greek culture referred to actors who wore different masks to play various roles on stage. Relate that idea to Jesus’s use of the word in this passage. In the flow of the Sermon on the Mount, who are the hypocrites?
Refer to Luke 18:9-14 to help identify the hypocrite referred to in Matthew 6. How does the parable in Luke differ from this selection in Matthew?
Now that we have read through both Matthew and Mark in the reading plan, dig in to how you’ve seen Jesus rebuking hypocrisy throughout these two gospels. The examples are abundant and profound. Gently, refrain from the attitude, “I would never do that!” but rather lean into conviction, if it comes. Repent and turn to God in trust and faith that His power is sufficient to change.
- Discuss the practice of posting selfies and other happenings on social media. Why do people do this? When does it cross the line into showing off? How might all this be affecting you and others?
- Wrestle with the tension between not doing things “before other people” (6:1) and “letting your light shine before others” (5:16). How do these ideas work together?
The verses give us a huge clue. In Matthew 5:16, we are light so that others give glory to God and in Matthew 6:1, the motivation is to be seen by others. This is all about heart attitude and where the glory lands.
- **What religious disciplines are valued in our circles? In what ways can they be misused as a way to impress others? Have you ever done that? Why?**
- **When used properly, what is the value of Christian disciplines and what attitude does it take to practice them correctly?**
How does this relate to The Beatitudes?
The purpose of spiritual disciplines is to aid a believer in being formed into the image of Christ for the sake of others. The spiritual disciplines are all avenues in which the Holy Spirit renews our minds and stirs our hearts to delight in him. These disciplines are not a means to earn salvation or any favor from God, but rather because we are saved, we long to obey, follow, and love him with all of me - heart, soul, mind and might (Deuteronomy 6:5).
- Read Psalm 139:1-4. How should knowing we are always in God's sight guide us in our spiritual walk?
Don't stop in verse 4. After your discussion on this question, guide your group through the rest of the psalm and use the final verses of Psalm 139 (vs. 23-24) to pray with your group. Don't wait. Pray now. Remember that the Spirit empowers our heart change.
- What do we really gain (or think we gain) when we do things to draw attention to ourselves instead of drawing attention to God? How do these things compare to what we gain when do things secretly and for God's glory and not our personal gain?
We gain accolades, recognition, attention, etc., but these things are temporary. The four reasons Brian mentions about why we should do things privately are: (1) doing things for public recognition means we lose our reward, (2) doing things for public recognition steals attention from God, (3) doing things for the praise deadens the spiritual practice and hardens our hearts and (4) doing things for the praise makes us lose the joy of simply connecting with God in the practice. Use these ideas to feed the conversation.
- Do you think it is easier or more difficult to do things privately or publicly? Why?

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Individually or as a group, consider how you can live out the *Kingdom Heart Cry* this week. Pray for the power of the Spirit to equip you to do it.
- The Joyful Journey resource page on our website has many Faithfully Following pieces.