

Text: Matthew 6:1-4

Meaning: Jesus cautions the disciples against hypocrisy

Big Idea: Stay away from hypocrisy

Objective: I want the hearers to live authentic lives of faith

Theme: TEACHINGS

ARE YOU A HYPOCRITE?

Hypocrite – a word that stings when people say it about you. A word of derision.

What does it mean that someone is a hypocrite? It doesn't mean what you think it does.

PROPOSITIONAL STATEMENT: TODAY WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT WHAT A HYPOCRITE IS AND I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU 2 TEACHINGS OF JESUS ON AVOIDING HYPOCRISY.

READ MATTHEW 6:1-4

SERMON ON THE MOUNT – not a random list of moral obligations
These characteristics **BUILD ON EACH OTHER**

SERMON ON THE MOUNT – EXPANDED DEFINITION OF JESUS HIMSELF – HE IS THE KING AND HE BROUGHT THE KINGDOM TO EARTH WHEN HE CAME

SERMON ON THE MOUNT – UNIVERSAL INVITE TO KINGDOM
By calling those who were hopeless in society “blessed” he is saying that the Kingdom of God is available to anyone, not just the rich or the religious or the intelligent or the successful.

CHAPTER 6 – SO THIS THING, THIS KINGDOM WAY OF LIFE, IS NOT about appearance or performance, as some seem to think.
Remember it is about the HEART!

CH. 6 – HYPOCRITE

Hypocrites – Hypokrites

This is an old word for actor, interpreter, one who impersonates another... Then to pretend, to feign, to dissemble, to act the hypocrite, to wear a mask. This is the hardest word that Jesus has for any class of people and he employs it for these pious pretenders who pose as perfect.¹

Matt 6 – picture of hypocrisy

RELIGION

RICHES

REPUTATION

Matt 7 – finishes with DON'T JUDGE OTHERS!

Performance – isn't this the way almost everyone lives their lives?

RELIGIOUS OR NOT

RICH OR POOR

BLACK, WHITE, HISPANIC OR ASIAN

GAY OR STRAIGHT

DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN

YOUNG OR OLD

FIT OR NOT

BALD, HAIR TOO GRAY, TOO OVERWEIGHT

COLLEGE DEGREE OR NOT

ATHLETE OR NOT

CHURCH OR NOT

¹ A.T. Robertson, [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](#) (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Mt 6:2.

Jesus is giving us an entirely new way to view people.

VERSE 22 – Good Eye

The people that RELIGION, RICHES, AND REPUTATION SAID “I CAN’T BE ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE PEOPLE” are the very ones Jesus said, “THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!”

James 2 – SPIRIT OF PARTIALITY OR FAVORITISM

Matthew 24:51 – LITERALLY SAYS THERE IS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HELL FOR HYPOCRITES!

HOW DO WE AVOID HYPOCRISY?

1. DIE TO PERFORMANCE MENTALITY

Crucify the flesh with its passions and desires.

Luke 9:23 – if you want to follow me you must deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow after Me

Be Careful Not to practice your righteousness – imperative Oxymoron – YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Keep in mind he just told them back in chapter 5 to **LET THEIR LIGHT SO SHINE AMONG MEN THAT OTHERS MAY SEE THEIR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

Also, he says here **WHEN YOU GIVE, PRAY, AND FAST, not “IF YOU GIVE, PRAY, AND FAST.”** So it is assumed that a person who is following Christ wants to live generously and piously before the Lord.

² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, [*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*](#) (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 332.

PROSECHO, to be in a continuous state of readiness to learn of any future danger, need, or error, and to respond appropriately ²

Ex. Soldier in a forward area constantly vigilant and prepared to engage should the enemy attack.

Covering our sin is much easier than confessing it. It is much easier to just attend some church services or even get baptized that it is to follow Jesus daily with my life.

What Jesus is saying is that this is the PROPENSITY OF OUR FLESH – TO LET OUR GIVING, PRAYING, AND SERVING TO DRIFT INTO THIS VERY THING – A PERFORMANCE.

2. DESIRE A GREATER REWARD

Secret – used 6 times in Vs. 1-18

Reward – used 7 times in Vs. 1-18

Those who focus on performance mentality receive a temporary reward. The only reward you get are the earthly possessions, accolades, or applause of men. It doesn’t last. It doesn’t endure.

MEGACHURCH PASTOR TO FAIL MORALLY
RICH MAN TO LEAVE HIS FAMILY
ACTOR/ATHLETE TO COMMIT SUICIDE

WHAT ARE THE GREATER REWARDS?

JESUS – His peace, power, provision, joy

SECRET STRENGTH – Who I am in secret is who I really am.
MAKE SURE YOUR PRIVATE DEVOTION MATCHES YOUR PUBLIC
PERSONA! DON'T BE AN IMPOSTOR! DON'T BE A FAKE!

Prayer, the Word, Personal worship, generosity

Would I engage in these things if the formal institution of the church wasn't challenging me to do it?

RELATIONSHIPS – Relationships are what make life worth living. A strong marriage, deep friendships, living in real community with other believers. These are the greater rewards.

When we think about reward from God we think about standing at the judgment seat of Christ and being rewarded for the things we did for Him in this life. We talk about getting another jewel in our crown and laying those crowns down at His feet. This idea is NOT WRONG IT'S JUST INCOMPLETE!

CHRIST TALKS ABOUT THE REWARD HERE IN PRESENT TENSE LANGUAGE! IN OTHER WORDS – THE PERSON WHO GIVES, PRAYS, AND SERVES GOD TRULY FROM THE HEART NO MATTER WITH NO THOUGHT FOR RECOGNITION OF APPLAUSE GETS REWARDED NOW!

PEACE, JOY, POWER, PROVISION, PROTECTION, HEALTH, LONG LIFE, WISDOM FROM ABOVE – THESE ARE ALL BLESSINGS GOD SPEAKS OF FOR THOSE WHO SEEK HIM

READ PSALM 112

PSALM 103

PSALM 91-92