

The King's People Delight in the Sight of God
Matthew 6:1-4
Jason Finley, Discipleship Pastor
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The spiritual disciplines are motivated by delight in Christ [such as giving (v.3), prayer (v. 6), fasting (v. 17)].

Delight in Christ is fueled by the spiritual disciplines.

1. The Perils of Man's Praise (vv. 1-2)

- Delighting in man's praise is *really* delighting in self.
- Delighting in man's praise is costly.

"Jesus calls us hypocrites when we seek the praise of men. When you do something praise worthy to get the praise of man, you are not doing the praise worthy thing. You are doing the praise craving thing. You are a hypocrite. You pretend to do the good, but that is incidental to what you really want, applause." - John Piper

2. The Promise of God's Reward (vv. 3-4)

- God sees.

Hebrews 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

"Blessed is the servant who does not regard himself as better when he is esteemed and extolled by men than when he is reputed as mean, simple, and despicable: for what a man is in the sight of God, so much he is, and no more." - Francis of Assisi

- God rewards.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

"I never made a sacrifice," said Hudson Taylor in later years, looking back over a life in which that element was certainly not lacking. But what he said was true, for the compensations were so real and lasting that he came to see that giving up is inevitably receiving, when one is dealing heart to heart with God....The sacrifice was great, but the reward far greater. Unspeakable joy [he tells us] all day long and every day, was my happy experience. God, even my God, was a living bright reality, and all I had to do was joyful service." *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*, 30

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Matthew 25:31-46