



# Hypocrites and Howlers

*Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18*

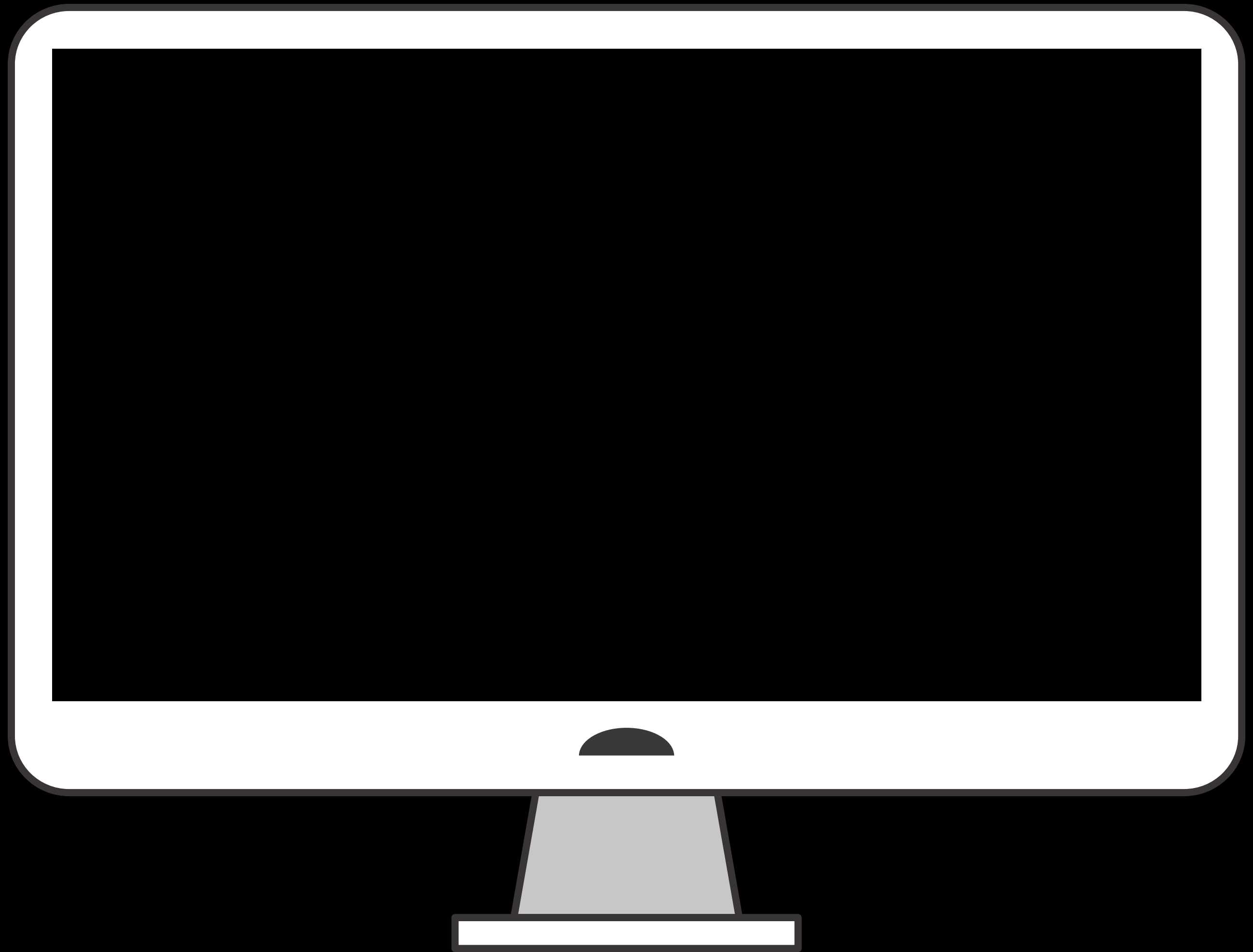
**hypocrisy**: when our **beliefs** and **behavior** don't match up

**Why** do we do what we do?

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people  
**in order to be seen** by them, for then you will have no **reward**  
from your Father who is in heaven.

*Matthew 6:1*





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Live for the approval of God...not the approval of man.

Colossians 3:23-24:

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."



You were created by God for the **glory** of God.

## Example #1: Giving

Thus, when you give to the needy, **sound no trumpet** before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be **in secret**. And your Father who sees in secret will **reward** you.

*Matthew 6:2-4*

## Example #1: Giving

**Wrong way:** giving to draw attention to the giver

**Result:** the praise of others

**Right way:** give in secret

## Example #2: Praying

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they **may be seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is **in secret**. And your Father who sees in secret will **reward** you.

*Matthew 6:5-6*

## Example #2: Praying

**Wrong way:** praying to be seen by others

**Result:** the looks of others

**Right way:** pray in secret

## Example #3: Fasting

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting **may be seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is **in secret**. And your Father who sees in secret will **reward** you.

*Matthew 6:16-18*

## Example #3: Fasting

**Wrong way:** fasting to draw attention to yourself

**Result:** the attention of others

**Right way:** fast to be seen by God

Jesus wants **genuine** followers  
who strive to be like Him **in all of life.**



Do you want to be **happy**?

We were made for God, and so our hearts are like restless pilgrims, going on endless journeys for happiness through God's creation, when all we really need to do is **come home** to the One who made us.

*Augustine*



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