

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 9/3/2023

Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24 Fall Forward: Generosity

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- In life you will fall. When you fall, FALL FORWARD.
 - It's a decision – when things are tough or you fail, are you stepping away or falling toward Jesus?
- How do you fall forward? Spiritual Disciplines.
 - Practices put in place to help us journey toward Jesus, whether we are “feeling it” or not.
- **Verse 1** Be careful not to do things to puff yourself up. If you do, you have already received your reward; God has no more reward for you.
 - But Jesus also said to let your light shine so others may see your good deeds (Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount: Mt. 5:14-16). Huh?? Doesn't that conflict with Mt. 6:1?
 - Short answer is “no” it doesn't conflict.
 - Mt. 5 – You are a light, let people see it, vs. Mt. 6 Don't practice righteousness to be seen.
 - There is a difference between who you are and what you do.
 - Live for Jesus and let the world know it. But if you do it because you want to be seen, you've crossed the line. It becomes about people seeing you instead of seeing Jesus.
- **Verse 2-3a** “When you give” not IF you give
 - “to be honored by people” means doing things so the broken people around you who are just like you give you a thumbs up.
- Teaching template used by Jesus in Mt. 6:
So When you.....
Do not....
like the hypocrites...

But when you...
Do not...
Then your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.
- **Verse 3b** Don't even let yourself know.
 - How do you do that? When you are generous and even if you don't sound a trumpet, but you leave that generous situation thinking, “man, am I really good person.” you're letting yourself know. When you do that, it's a moment you just lost with God.
 - When you give out of the generosity of Christ, there's no need to take time to acknowledge how good you are...to anyone including yourself.
- **Verse 4** “In secret..”
 - There are things we do in secret that the Father has to root out of us
 - But when we GIVE in secret, meaning when we give without need for ANY recognition, but we give just because we emulate our generous God, it shines Jesus brightly to those around you.
 - The Father who sees what you did FOR HIM will reward you.

- **Verse 19-21** do not store up treasures on earth.... What about a 401K, or long term investments, or taking care of your vehicle. Is that storing up treasure on earth?
 - It depends what you treasure. If you treasure your 401K, your house or your car, then don't. If they are simply instruments of planning and you don't treasure them, then you're not.
 - Don't amass wealth for your own benefit or enjoyment...amass kindness and generosity like Jesus.
- **Verse 24** Why can't I serve God AND money?
 - When you serve money you look out for yourself. You don't care about people the same way
 - Your ambition is more important than selfless service. Wash feet like Jesus.
 - You devalue relationships in your life. You just don't love people as well.
 - Jesus gets most of you, but He never gets all of you.
- How do you make sure you're not serving money? Answer these questions.
 - Is financial generosity part of the rhythm of your life or are you waiting until you have enough?
 - When you give in rhythm, you just do it, and you stop talking about it.
 - Are you generous with your time or are you waiting until you have more?
 - You don't need more; that is a lie of Satan.
 - Besides, you'll never "have enough" wealth or time.
 - Give now. Serve now.

When you fall, humble generosity done in rhythm helps you fall forward.

The bottom line: Who do you serve and can anyone tell?