Home CHURCH

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 3 of The Way

Watch Sermon | Sermon Notes

Jesus calls us to live with a righteousness that goes beyond what people can see. Our generosity, prayer, and fasting should not be about gaining recognition from others, but about growing in our relationship with our Father, who sees what happens in secret.

1. **Motive** *(Matthew 6:1)*
   - The goal is to live for His approval rather than the applause of people. The question isn't just whether we're doing good things, but why we're doing them. Our heavenly Father sees beyond our actions and knows the intentions of our hearts.

   Discuss:
   - How can you tell when your desire for people's approval is influencing your spiritual life?
   - What would change if you became more focused on pleasing God than being noticed by others?

2. **Generosity** *(Matthew 6:2–4)*
   - Giving isn't about building our reputation or proving how generous we are. It's about loving God and caring for others with what He has entrusted to us. When we give without seeking attention, we demonstrate that our reward comes from our Father, who sees what others may never notice.

   Discuss:
   - What motivates you to give? Is it love, obedience, recognition, obligation, or something else?
   - Why can it be difficult to give without receiving acknowledgment or appreciation?

3. **Prayer** *(Matthew 6:5–15)*
   - Prayer is not about impressing God with our words, but about developing a genuine relationship with Him. Prayer shifts our attention away from ourselves and toward the One who provides, forgives, and leads us.

   Discuss:
   - Does your prayer life feel more like a relationship with God or something you feel obligated to check off your list?

- Which part of the Lord's Prayer do you find easiest to practice? Which part challenges you most?

4. **Fasting** *(Matthew 6:16–18)*
    - Fasting is not about showing others how devoted we are or trying to earn God's favor. It is about intentionally setting something aside to seek Him more deeply. Our Father sees what happens in secret, and our desire should be to grow closer to Him rather than gain recognition from people.

Discuss:

- What are some ways spiritual disciplines can become more about appearances than genuine connection with God?
- What might you need to set aside in this season to create more space to seek God?