

Summer on the Mount – Week 7

Motives Matter Matthew 6:1–18 (CSB)

Big Idea: God is not merely concerned with what we do, but why we do it. Our motives matter because our Father sees what others cannot.

1. Our Caution (Matt. 6:1)

- Jesus creates a tension: Let your light shine (Matt. 5:16) yet do not practice righteousness to be seen (Matt. 6:1).
- The difference is not visibility—it is motivation.
- People may notice our lives, but they should leave talking about God.

2. Our Religious Affections

- Jesus examines giving, praying, and fasting.
- Hypocrisy is not only doing the wrong things, but doing the right things for the wrong reasons.
- Question: Why do I do what I do?

3. Our Audience

- Every act of devotion has an audience.
- The issue is not 'Will someone see?' but 'Whose approval do I want most?'
- The difference isn't the action; it's the audience.

4. Our Reward

- Two rewards: the applause of people or the approval of the Father.
- Human applause is temporary; the Father's reward is eternal.
- The greatest reward is the Father Himself.

Application

Before you serve, give, pray, post, or speak, ask: **Who am I hoping notices?**

Takeaway: Let your light shine—but make sure people don't stop at you. May they glorify your Father in heaven.