



# MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Faith That Isn't for Show**  
Series: **Upside Down Kingdom**  
Text: **Matthew 6:1-18**  
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **March 15, 2026**

**“Be careful** not to do your **‘acts of righteousness’** before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from **your Father in heaven**. (Mt 6:1).

**Authentic faith seeks the approval of God rather than the admiration of people.**

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## HOW DO WE ALIGN INNER TRANSFORMATION TO EXTERNAL ACTIONS?

### 1. LIVE FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_ OUT

**“Be careful** not to do your **‘acts of righteousness’** before men, (Mt. 6:1)

**“Train yourself to be godly.** For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things.” (1 Tim. 4:7–8)

Each one reflects something happening in the heart:

- **Love for others becomes** \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Intimacy with God becomes** \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Humility before God becomes** \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. EXAMINE OUR LIVES FOR \_\_\_\_\_

**“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. (Mt 6:2).**

**“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. (Mt 6:5).**

**“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. (Mt 6:16).**

\_\_\_\_\_ is the disconnect between outward piety and inward reality—acting spiritually for the approval of others rather than from a sincere heart toward God.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ BETWEEN HIDING AND SHOWING

“Let your light **shine before others**, that they may **see your good deeds**.” (Matt. 5:16)

Then your Father, who sees what is **done in secret**, will reward you. (Mt 6:4).

#### SO WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? \_\_\_\_\_

In Matthew 5, the \_\_\_\_\_ of visible good works is that people \_\_\_\_\_.

In Matthew 6, the \_\_\_\_\_ is doing good works so people \_\_\_\_\_.

#### LET’S LOOK AT THE THREE ILLUSTRATIONS

##### • \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE NEEDY

But **when you give** to the needy, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing**, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. (Mt 6:3–4).

- EXAMINE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ BEFORE GIVING
- GIVE WITHOUT \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR GENEROSITY
- DEVELOP \_\_\_\_\_ IN YOUR GIVING
- REORIENT YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ EXPECTATIONS

##### • \_\_\_\_\_ IN SECRET

“Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen.” (Matt. 6:6)

And **when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans**, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for **your Father** knows what you need before you ask him. (Mt 6:7–8).

Prayer is fundamentally intimate \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

##### • \_\_\_\_\_ WITH THE RIGHT FOCUS

But **when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face**, 18 so that it will **not be obvious to men** that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Mt 6:17–18).

#### The Real Question: Why Do We Do What We Do?

Instead of living for public \_\_\_\_\_, we live for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.