

DON'T LET THE HYPOCRITES GET YOU DOWN

Pastor Chad Gilligan | March 5, 2023

I. INTRODUCTION TO ALL TO HIM

Matthew 6:1 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

➤ **Just because Jesus' followers failed it does not mean that Jesus failed.**

II. DON'T LET THE HYPOCRITES GET YOU DOWN

1. *Don't Let the Hypocrites Show You How to Love God*

Matthew 6:2 "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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

A. Hypocrites give for attention.

Matthew 6:3-4 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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Hypocrites give for attention. → **Followers give for God's glory.**

Matthew 6:5 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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

B. Hypocrites pray for an audience.

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Hypocrites pray for an audience. → **Followers pray for an audience of one.**

Matthew 6:16 When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

C. Hypocrites fast for effect.

Matthew 6:17-18 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others 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.

Hypocrites fast for effect. → **Followers fast for love**

- **Truly loving God is not about impressing others.**
- **Truly loving God is not about feeling good.**

2. *Don't Let the Hypocrites Keep You from Loving God*

A. Don't let the fakers keep you from the real thing.

B. The ABCD's of a Faith that is Falling Apart

➤ **A — Attitude Issues**

Luke 18:9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

➤ **B — Busy Lifestyle**

Psalms 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalms 46:10 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

➤ **C — Confused Belief**

Psalms 131:1 My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

➤ **D — Disillusionment**

Psalms 73:21-22 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, ²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

Psalms 73:16-17 When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply ¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

3. Don't Let the Hypocrites Keep You From Your Reward

Matthew 6:17-18 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others 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.

A. God wants a secret life with you.

- The more I am in a secret place with Jesus the more I am aware of my hypocrisy.
- Will you choose to spend time doing secret things that lead to intimacy with God?

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

B. God rewards those who seek Him.

- The next time you give, give your best out of worship.

Luke 21:1-4 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

- The next time you pray, have an intimate conversation with God.
- The next time you fast, choose to love Jesus the most.