



Life Group Discussion Guide
“Living for an Audience of One” – Matthew 6:1-21
Scott Paulson – February 1, 2026

Main thought:

When we live for human approval, we settle for temporary rewards; when we live for God, we receive eternal rewards.

Ice-Breaker

- What’s a food you love that other people in your life think is weird?

Questions

1. What details stood out to you from Matthew 6:1-21 that you may not have noticed before?
2. Why do you think Jesus cares so much about the motives behind our spiritual behaviors?
3. What are some other examples from everyday life where doing the “right things” can still be done with the wrong motive?
4. How is it helpful to understand that Jesus doesn’t shame us for our desire to be noticed by others, but instead redirects it?
5. Jesus warns about practicing righteousness “to be seen by others”. Why is that temptation so powerful?
6. What does Jesus mean when He says, “They have received their reward in full”?
7. How does trusting that “your Father sees what is done in secret” require faith?
8. What clues help you discern whether your motives are rooted in doing something for God’s approval or for people’s approval?
9. Discuss the different examples Jesus gives in this passage. Which area resonated most with you—giving, prayer, fasting, or treasure? Why?
10. How does believing that God sees and rewards, bring you encouragement, freedom, and hope?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for each other.