



## PART 7: THE DISCIPLINE OF SECRECY

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Matthew 6:1-18**

#### Introduction:

Matthew 5, Jesus addressed our moral righteousness. Now he addresses our religious righteousness. The “religious” things we do.

#### 1. The Posture of Hypocrisy

Matthew 6:1

Hypocrite: Used 17 times in the NT - only by Jesus.

In classical Greek “hupokrites” was an actor. Someone who is putting on a performance.

“To stand with a penny in one hand and a trumpet in the other is the posture of hypocrisy.” ~Charles Spurgeon

John 12:43

“There’s a little Pharisee in all of us” ~Roger Stronstad

The antidote to performance Christianity is the discipline of secrecy.

#### 2. The Discipline of Secrecy

Matthew 6:3

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#### a) Giving to the Needy

The bible clearly teaches us that we have a responsibility to the poor (1 John 3:17).

#### b) Prayer

“God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be....” ~E. M. Bounds

#### c) Fasting

Fasting is going without food for a period of time so that we can focus on our dependency upon God.

Spiritual Disciplines train us in righteousness (1 Timothy 4:8, 1 Corinthians 9:27).

“A discipline is an activity in our power that we do to enable us to do what we cannot do by direct effort” ~Dallas Willard

Secrecy is a discipline, which will help us break the grip of human opinion over our souls and actions.

#### 3. The Reward of Righteousness

Matthew 6:4

“There are different kinds of reward. There is reward which has no natural connection with the things you do to earn it, and is quite foreign to the desires that ought to accompany those things. Money is not a natural reward for love; that is why we call a man mercenary if he marries a woman for the sake of her money. But marriage is the proper reward for a real lover, and he is not mercenary for desiring it...the proper rewards are not simply tacked on to the activity for which they are given, but are the activity itself in consummation.” ~C.S. Lewis

“Pharisaic piety is ostentatious, motivated by vanity and rewarded by men. Christian piety is secret, motivated by humility and rewarded by God” ~John Stott

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday February 14, 2016- Pastor Dave Funk

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Who are your favourite actors? Why? What role do you like them in best? How much do you know about their real life?
2. How is hypocrisy like acting?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 23:23-28. What do these verses say about hypocrisy? Why were the pharisees so susceptible to living hypocritical lives?
2. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus tells us to let people see our good deeds. Now in 6:3 he tells us to not even let our left hand know what our right hand is doing. Is he contradicting himself? How do we reconcile these two statements?
3. Read 1 Timothy 4:8 & 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Paul uses the metaphors of physical fitness and athletic training to describe how Spiritual Disciplines train us in righteousness. How can we apply these principles? Why is it so important to “train” ourselves spiritually? What are we training for?

### Application:

1. What is something you can do secretly this week to practice the discipline of secrecy? Which of the three disciplines in this passage do you need to “train” yourself in (giving, prayer, fasting)? Give your group some time to think and pray about this in silence (keep it a secret!).

### Prayer:

1. Pray for God to help us in our efforts to “train” in righteousness.
2. Other requests
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