



It is easy to assume that if we are doing the right thing, our motives must be right too. But Jesus challenges that assumption in Matthew 6:1–4. He points out that even acts of righteousness, giving, serving, and generosity can become less about loving God and others and more about being noticed, appreciated, or affirmed. The desire to be seen is subtle because it can hide underneath genuinely good things. Jesus invites us to examine not only what we do, but what is happening in our hearts when we do it. As we study this passage together, consider where you may be tempted to seek recognition and what it might look like to live more freely for an audience of One.

1. **Uncovering Hidden Obstacles**

When we slow down to examine what drives our actions, we often notice areas where our own self-judgements get in the way of acting with genuine care and advocacy. Where might this be true for you right now?

2. **The Desire to Be Seen**

Jesus talks about practicing righteousness in secret. Be honest with yourself or the group: What are some righteous habits or good deeds you do that you secretly (or openly) hope others notice and appreciate?

3. **Examining Our Motives**

How easily can a good action be hijacked by a misplaced motive?

4. What are the subtle warning signs that your primary motive is shifting from loving God & others to seeking approval?

5. **Making Extraordinary What Should Be Ordinary**

Why do you think we tend to make such a big deal out of basic acts of Christian obedience—like giving, serving, or donating time and money—rather than viewing them as standard parts of daily discipleship?

6. **Living for the Unseen Audience**

The promise that God the Father sees in secret and rewards us sounds incredible—so why is it so easy to lose sight of that and settle for the quick high of human recognition instead?

7. **Practical Shift**

How might the atmosphere in your home, workplace, or small group change if everyone actively chose to serve and give without needing any credit or recognition?

8. **Heart Check & Reflection:**

When was the last time you gave or served in complete secrecy? What did that experience reveal about your relationship with God and your need for approval?