

A Heart of Worship

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18 [page 1502]

Taking it Home:

1. Read Psalm 27:8, 63:1, 84:1-2. After reading these passages, how might a continuous pursuit of the Lord help purify your motives in serving Him?
2. Review the section, “Seeking the wrong applause.” Which areas in your life need attention? Share this with a trusted friend, and ask the Lord for His help.

Prayer Concerns:

Pursuing Spiritual Disciplines

Giving – Generously _____ God’s kingdom and those in _____

Praying – Time spent in _____ with God to deepen _____ with Him

Fasting – Letting go of an _____ to seek God on matters of _____ for others, myself, or the world.

Seeking the wrong applause

1. The applause of _____
2. The applause of _____
3. The applause of _____

Coming back to the heart of worship

Receiving the right rewards

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. Whose approval was most important to you as a child?

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

1. Jesus talks about “acts of righteousness”. What does he mean by this? What were they in the past, and what are they today? How does hypocrisy affect giving, prayer, and fasting?
2. Which spiritual disciplines are valued in your circles? How can they be used to impress others? When have you fallen into that temptation?
3. How has God used giving, prayer, and fasting in your life to deepen your relationship with Him?
4. What is the difference between living a life to honor the Lord and seeking His applause? For those who are in Christ, what is already true about them? (Read Ephesians 1:3-14) How do these truths help us honor and please the Lord with a right heart?
5. Read Revelation 4. It reveals what is happening around God’s throne at this moment. It ends with, “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.” How might having a larger view of God influence your motives in giving, praying, fasting, serving, and so on?
6. What rewards will those who perform their ‘acts of righteousness’ for recognition from others receive? What about those who do them in secret? Which of God’s rewards do you most appreciate?