

Thursday

Please read Matthew 6:16-18. In Jesus' day, the Pharisees wanted everyone to know when they were fasting. Why do you think they wanted everyone to know? How did they make sure people knew they were making these sacrifices? Have you ever exaggerated your sacrifices for Christ, the way the Pharisees over-emphasized their pain? How? What does Jesus say we should do if we are fasting? Perhaps this month you might try a fast for a day. It will help you focus on God, remind you to be thankful for your daily bread, and you can even use the money you save to help support someone less fortunate.

Thank God for the certainty of his reward. Thank him that he is a loving Father! Ask him to help you focus on him, and not on the approval of others for your acts of faith.

Friday

Please read Matthew 23:1-12. How is Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees in these verses similar to the passage from the Sermon on the Mount you've been studying this week? What are the common themes? This is an Old Testament theme too! In 1 Samuel, the prophet Samuel confronts King Saul, who had just performed all sorts of very public religious ceremonies and sacrifices—but Saul apparently tried to use these religious acts as a cover-up for his sin. Read Samuel's scathing rebuke to Saul in 1 Samuel 15:22. How is Samuel's theme similar to Christ's in Matthew 6 and Matthew 23? In what way have you tried to use religious acts as a cover for your hidden unrighteousness, or to win favor from people?

Ask God today to help your faith be totally authentic, from the inside out! Thank him for his love for you!

Saturday

Read Matthew 26:17-30 to prepare for the Lord's Supper.

Ask God to soften your heart and make you receptive to his truth and his people. Pray that you will worship God with your entire being—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that both services will be pleasing offerings of worship to our great God.



First Covenant Church of Eureka
2526 J Street Eureka, CA 95501
707-442-6774
Church email: fceureka@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Rick's email: rickm@fceureka.org
Church Web Site: www.fceureka.org

The King's Speech

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, February 26, 2017

On Doing Good

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” Matthew 6:1

The Big Idea:

Live for an _____

How to tell if I'm being a hypocrite:

1. Do I live for _____?

“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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:2-4

2. Do I live for _____?

“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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 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.” Matthew 6:5-6

Points on Prayer

• Keep it _____

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:7-8

• **Keep it** _____

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’” Matthew 6:9-13

• **Keep it** _____

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15

3. Do I live for _____ **?**

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men 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.” Matthew 6:16-18

How to live for an audience of One: _____ **!**

“...your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:4, 6, 18

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week’s topic.

Memory Verse

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” Matthew 6:1

Monday

Please read Matthew 6:1. When you think about living for an audience of One, how does that make you feel? What would living for an audience of One look like in your life? When are you most tempted to slip into the performance mentality? What’s the danger

of this mentality? If people are going to church and reading the Bible, why should anyone care what their motives are?

Thank God today for his unconditional love. Ask the Lord today to keep your faith authentic and motivated by pure love and devotion to Christ!

Tuesday

Please read Matthew 6:2-4. Why do you think Jesus chose the example of giving as an area where we need to be aware of our “religious performance”? What was wrong with the way the hypocrites were giving, according to Jesus? What was their motive in giving? How does this motive tend to sway our decision about what ministry we will give to? What does the Bible say about the subject of giving in 1 Corinthians 13:3 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11? Write out the specific principles about giving that you discover from these two passages:

Example: Give cheerfully.

Thank God today for the financial blessings he has provided for you. Ask God to help you to be a cheerful giver, motivated by love for God and others and not by honor from men. Thank him for his gifts to us: of life and of salvation by grace alone!

Wednesday

Please read Matthew 6:5-15, focusing on verses 5–8. It seems we are especially susceptible to performance when it comes to prayer. Have you ever changed your prayers because you were concerned about what others might think of you? Which of the following apply to you in relation to public prayer?

- _____ The words I use
- _____ The length of time I pray
- _____ What I pray about
- _____ The tone of voice I use
- _____ Using prayer to communicate information to those listening
- _____ My posture when I pray
- _____ All of the above!
- _____ Other: _____

In verse 7, what is Jesus saying about the way we should pray? Why should we pray in this way?

Use Matthew 6:9-13 as your model for prayer today. Pray in simplicity and honesty to your loving Father! Ask him to help you truly speak with him as a loving God, and not to use prayer as a performance. And be sure to take time to listen to his voice, too.