

Words of the King: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Discussion Guide, November 29, 2020
Next week's text: Matthew 6:7-15

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. -
Matthew 5:43-45a

- How did you do with praying for your enemies this past week?

OPEN:

- Can you know if a person is righteous or not?
 - o If so, how? If not, why not?

READ and ASK: Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

- What kinds of acts was Jesus discussing? What was Jesus condemning? What three examples did Jesus use?
 - o How does it compare to Matthew 5:14-16?
 - o How do we reconcile 6:1 with 5:16?
- What name does Jesus give to insincere individuals?
 - o Who can judge whether a person's actions are pure?
- Is this passage saying that it is wrong to be known as a person of prayer, generosity, or any other act of righteousness?
- If you had to summarize the main point Jesus is making in these verses, how would you summarize it?

APPLY:

- Jesus seems to be assuming that people would do three things, what are these three things?
 - o Do you practice them regularly? If so, for what purpose?

- In what ways do we struggle with doing our acts of righteousness for the purpose of being seen by others?
 - o Why is it difficult for us to do good deeds and keep quiet about it?
 - o Is it a problem to "do good deeds" for the purpose of making ourselves "feel better?" (if not, what does it mean to not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing?)

- What steps can you take to be sure your giving is not for show?

- What changes do you need to make in your prayer life?

- Have you ever practiced fasting? How might practicing fasting on a regular basis be good for your spiritual growth?

- NEXT STEP: What is your greatest take away from this passage?

Memory Work:

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them.
If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 6:1