

For an Audience of One

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Bethel Bible Church May 3, 2020

Trying to keep track of who we are trying to please can be exhausting. Jesus warns us as his followers about doing the good things we do to please people. He then gives 3 illustrations while repeating the same points all three times. The emphasis is intentional, not to make us change our techniques or methods of doing church, but to convince us that our greatest enemy is ourselves. The reason people pleasing is such an issue is that pleasing people is simply a glorified way of pleasing ourselves. Pleasing people props us up, helps us feel good about ourselves, convinces us that we are important and needed and ultimately shows us without a doubt that we are loved.

6:1 Warning: Watch out for pleasing people!

Giving 6:2-4

Warning	v.2	<i>when you give to the needy</i>
Instruction	v.3	<i>but when you give to the needy</i>
Assurance	v.4	<i>giving is in secret . . . Father sees and rewards</i>

Praying v.5-6

Warning	v.5	<i>and when you pray</i>
Instruction	v.5a	<i>but when you pray</i>
Assurance	v.5b	<i>Father who sees, rewards</i>

Fasting v. 16-18

Warning	v.16	<i>and when you fast</i>
Instruction	v.17	<i>but when you fast . . .</i>
Assurance	v.17	<i>Your Father sees in secret and rewards you</i>

Take Aways

1. Your sinful disposition, expressed in placing self interest first, is your greatest challenge.
2. Your effort to please God, live in the presence of God, is your greatest hope.

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:9-10

Discuss/Reflect What do you want to do, use or remember from today's study?