

Choose Your Audience Carefully

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

You're not Good Enough (And that's a Good Thing)
Growth Group Questions Week of April 8, 2018



Welcome to your growth group!

1. We're just coming out of the Passion Week—Jesus' last days, Gethsemane, betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection. What was something about Jesus you thought about during the last week or that touched you in a new way?
2. Read together our teaching passage, Matthew 6.1-6, 16-18. What strikes you? Where do you see a tendency to seek approval, applause, appreciation in your life?
3. Some bible commentators describe three different types of hypocrisy: A) a hypocrisy where we pretend our intentions are good but we know they are not (Matthew 22.15-18); B) a hypocrisy where we begin with good motives but become so enamored with the applause of others, we deceive ourselves, but not our onlookers (maybe Matthew 6.5?); C) a hypocrisy where we fool ourselves into thinking we really are serving God, people are blessed and grateful, but their gratitude simply bolsters our self-delusion (perhaps Matthew 6.2?). Talk about these shades of hypocrisy (and perhaps other shades as well) and us.
4. Read and talk through the story of the early church and Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 4.32-5.11. Who was the audience this couple was playing for? Who was the audience who saw all, the One they should have been living for?
5. Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing (Matthew 6.3) was sounding the death-knell of the old man." Why do we so long to be noticed, appreciated, applauded by others? Why is it so hard to not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing? How do we do battle with our old man?