

# **“What’s Next Message Series: Motives”**

Sunday, June 2, 2024 @ 10:30AM | Worship Center



**Matthew 6:1-15 (ESV):** “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup> “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup> “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Jesus wants to take us from a life that is spent checking off a spiritual checklist to a life that is built on and is engulfed in a relationship with our Him, our Heavenly Father.**

## **The Characteristics of Godly Motives**

- Godly motives produce generous lives that yield “spiritual forgetfulness.” (Matthew 6:1-4)

“Make sure your faith doesn’t become a vehicle for your flesh.” – Josh Patterson

“In his exposition of the sixth and seventh commandments Jesus indicated that both murder and adultery can be committed in our hearts, unwarranted anger being a kind of heart-murder and lustful looks a kind of heart-adultery. In the matter of giving, he has the same concern about secret thoughts. The question is not so much what the hand is doing (giving out money) but what the heart is thinking while the hand is doing it.” – John Stott

- Godly motives produce generous lives that bring glory to our Heavenly Father through our unseen actions. (Matthew 6:5-6)

Theologian A. B. Bruce – “We are to ‘show when tempted to hide’ and ‘hide when tempted to show’. Our good deeds must be public so that our light shines; our religious devotions must be secret in case we boast about them. Besides, the end of both instructions of Jesus is the same, namely the glory of God. Why are we to keep our righteousness secret? It is in order that glory may be given to God, rather than other people. Why are we to let our light shine and do good deeds in the open? It is that people may glorify our heavenly Father.”

- Godly motives produce generous lives that live with a redefined view of what it means to be rewarded. (Matthew 6:2, 4, 5, 6)

“The hiddenness that should characterize the disciple’s actions applies to the disciple. Disciples should keep on following Jesus and should keep looking forward to Him who is going before them. But not at themselves and what they are doing. The righteousness of a disciple is hidden from themselves. Those who would follow Jesus can be characterized by a kind of forgetfulness. Following Jesus requires that we lose our overpowering sense of self, and such a loss often accompanies a participation in any grand movement. But the kind of forgetfulness required to follow Jesus is different from those moments that are briefly exhilarating but soon lost. The forgetfulness that Jesus offers is made possible by the compelling reality and beauty of participation in His time. A time that cannot be lost because it’s God’s.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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