

Sermon Handout: Our Father, Week 5

Sunday, June 23, 2024
Central Church of Christ

Masks By Paul Webster

Main Points:

1. True Discipleship Requires Inner Transformation: Jesus emphasizes that acts of righteousness should stem from a sincere heart aligned with God's will, not for public recognition.
2. Giving to the Needy: Give in secret, not for public praise. Hypocrites announce their generosity to gain admiration.
3. Prayer: Pray privately and sincerely, not to be seen by others. Hypocrites pray loudly in public for attention.
4. Fasting: Fast discreetly, maintaining your appearance so only God knows. Hypocrites disfigure their faces to show they are fasting.

Bottom Line: God's children love their heavenly Father more than the praise of people.

Application: Guardrails for Sincere Acts of Righteousness

- Inner Transformation: Acts of righteousness should come from a heart transformed by God's love.
- Seeking Wisdom: Seek guidance from God's Word and prayer to avoid self-righteousness.
- Desiring Eternal Rewards: Focus on pleasing God and seeking eternal rewards, not earthly recognition.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Jesus emphasize the importance of inner transformation in our acts of righteousness?
2. How can we ensure our giving to the needy is done with the right motives?
3. What are some ways we can make our prayer life more sincere and private?
4. Why is it important to fast discreetly, and how can we apply this principle in our lives?
5. How can we balance our motivations to ensure we are seeking to please God rather than seeking the praise of people?

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 15:11; Matthew 5:48; Matthew 6:1-18; James 2:17