

# Lighthouse Group Preparation

## Holy Hypocrites

Matthew 6:1–6; 16–18

### Main Idea

Jesus warns that spiritual practices done for human recognition are empty. True righteousness is practiced for the glory of God, not the applause of people.

### Head (Know)

Jesus is not condemning giving, prayer, or fasting. He is exposing the danger of practicing them for the wrong motivation.

### Heart (Feel)

We should feel the weight of examining our motives and the danger of performative religion.

### Hands (Do)

Practice spiritual disciplines for the **audience of one**, seeking the approval of the Father rather than the praise of people.

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## Scripture to Read

Matthew 6:1–6; 16–18

Key Verse

Matthew 6:1

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them...”

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## Lighthouse Group Discussion Questions

1. **Why does Jesus begin this section with the warning “beware”? What danger is He exposing?**
  2. **Why do you think it is possible to do the right thing for the wrong reason?**
  3. **Jesus says “when” you give, pray, and fast—not “if.” What does this reveal about the role of spiritual disciplines in the Christian life?**
  4. **Jesus does not forbid public acts of righteousness. What is the difference between something being seen and doing something *to be seen*?**
  5. **Jesus says those who seek human praise “have received their reward.” What does that mean?**
  6. **Why is it sobering to realize that God sees not only our actions but our motives?**  
*(1 Samuel 16:7)*
  7. **In what ways can prayer, generosity, or other spiritual practices subtly become performative today?**
  8. **Why is the gospel necessary if the real problem Jesus exposes is the heart and our motives?**
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## **Carry It Forward**

**What’s one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?**