



Sermon Discussion Questions

Matthew 6:1-4 // Giving & Recognition

- Pastor Jeff shared the story of a family that gave a very large gift towards a sports arena that they wanted to name after their daughter. Do you think it's wrong to have our names attached to charitable gifts or good works? Why or why not?
- "Be perfect (whole, mature, right) like your heavenly Father," Jesus says (Matthew 5:48). "But be careful" (Matthew 6:1). Why does Jesus give this warning? What can be dangerous about pursuing righteousness or holiness?
- Jesus warns us not to practice our righteousness in order to be seen. We almost never consciously decide to seek notice and applause for giving (even if we probably still like it). Why is this kind of recognition so dangerous to our souls?
- Jesus also warns us against giving in a way that leads us to flatter or please ourselves. How do sometimes do that? Is it always wrong to remember how God has used us to bless others? What helps us avoid looking back at the good we've done with pride or self-righteousness?
- Have you ever had people thank you for the good you'd done and you didn't even remember it? How did that make you feel?
- Jesus assures us that our Father who is heaven will see and reward us for giving to help others. Does that seem right? What will those rewards be?

- How does the gospel address our legitimate need for recognition, identity, affirmation?
- In Jesus' day the poor and needy were obvious. Who are the poor and needy in our context? How do we (or can we) see them and serve them as Jesus expects?

