

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 29 October

sunnysidechurch

Being Salt and Light in our Motives

Bible passages: Matthew 6.1-18; Mark 12.28-34

Introduction

- Jesus wants us to pursue true righteousness in which the key question is about our motives: 'if no one saw what we are doing, would we still do it?' (6.1)
- Jesus gives 3 examples of what it might look like in accepted religious practices which he assumes his followers would practise.

1. Giving

- Giving to those in need a practical response to our love for God and for our neighbour
- Question: are we giving out of love of God or for attention?

2. Prayer

- Need to spend time with God in prayer privately as well as publicly
- Question: what is our private prayer life like?

3. Fasting

- Discipline that reminds us of our dependence on God
- Question: do we fast to get healthy or to draw closer to God

Conclusion

- Who is our audience: ourselves, other people or God?

Some questions for discussion

1. What does righteousness mean to you?
2. Read Matthew 6.1-18. What do you notice?
3. Why is the contrast between doing things to be seen by others and doing them for our Father who sees in secret so important?
4. Which of the three Holy Habits of giving, prayer and fasting might need attention in your life?
5. Read Mark 12.28-34. How might keeping these Great Commandments help us have the right motives when we give, pray and fast?
6. Although we say it most often as a prayer, the Lord's Prayer is intended as a structure for praying. The first half focuses on the divine and the second on humans (like the 10 Commandments). Does it help your private prayers to see it this way?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'When you pray...to your Father who is unseen' (Matt 6.6)

Why not use the Lord's Prayer as a model for your prayers as you praise God and ask him to help you be more salty and shine more brightly in the days ahead?

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