



The Sermon on the Mount

Look Up

Before you read through the entire passage, just read verse 1 by itself. That verse summarizes what Jesus is going to illustrate over the next 14 verses.

Remember that over the past weeks, we've come again and again to the fact that Jesus is more interested in what is happening in our hearts than to our outward conformity to rules.

- Read Matthew 6:1-15 together as a group.

What especially caught your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- Did you notice? In each of the three scenarios, Jesus used the phrase: "they have received their reward in full." What does this mean? What is their reward?
- What is the meaning of verse 3 - that we should not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing?
- Jesus mentions rewards that come from two different sources. What are the two sources and what are the rewards?
- We are given many examples in the Bible of Christians praying with one another (for example, Acts 1:14). How do we do that without falling into

some of the errors Jesus describes here?

- Have you ever fasted? Share your experiences with the group? What is one way you can incorporate fasting into your life right now?

Read the passage again. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

- John Calvin said that "the theater of God is in the hidden corners." What does it mean that God sees what is done in secret and he desires to reward?
- Why is it so hard for us to get away from the desire to impress others in what we do? Jesus used some pretty obvious illustrations of that. What are some of the smaller, quieter ways the desire to be seen and approved by others shows up in our lives?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- Is there someone God is calling you to move toward for the purpose of reconciliation?
- What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another