

FALL, 2023 | SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Life Group WORKSHEET
Week 5 - “Distinctive Motive” | MATTHEW 6:1-18

INTRODUCTION

At Grace Church, we orient around a statement that expresses our aim:

“To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

One of the ways to relationally get to know anyone is to honestly listen to them. So, in our aim to get to know Jesus, we listen to Him. What does He prioritize? What delights Him? What concerns or grieves Him?

This fall, we are listening to the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, recorded for us in Matthew 5-7. Throughout this message of Jesus, we cannot help but notice He is unique. He is set apart. He is certainly distinctive –‘**radically distinctive.**’ Not coincidentally, His teaching is also radically distinctive. Perhaps some of us may cringe reflexively when we hear the term, ‘radical.’ For some, that term has a negative connotation. The English term ‘radical’ is derived from a Latin term, ‘radix,’ which means ‘at the root.’ In this series, Jesus teaches us that life in the Kingdom of God is distinctive at the root. It counters some of our assumptions. Jesus goes to the heart. He is desiring to transform lives from the inside out.

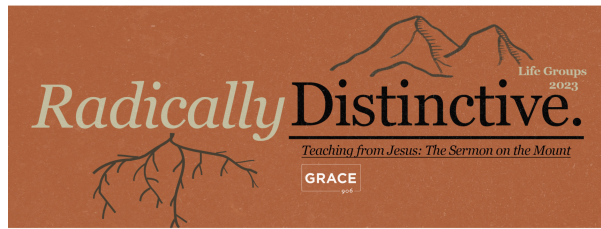
INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus speaks to the matter of motive. Motive matters in the Kingdom of God because it reflects our heart.

INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

As we relate to the LORD God, do we approach Him out of a desire to be in His presence and to fellowship with Him, or do we approach Him to be seen by others?

Are the gifts we offer to God a sincere expression of trust and love for Him, or are they really a desire to be noticed by others as ‘devout?’



DISCUSSION BODY

(Before meeting, please read through Matthew 5:1 - 7:29.)

Matthew 6:1-18

1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

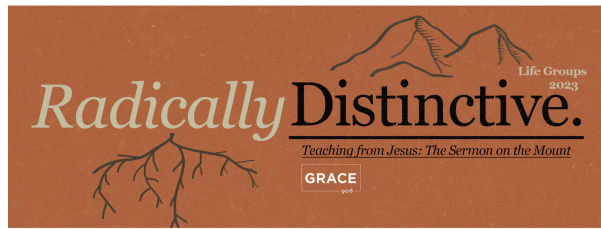
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. 16 "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

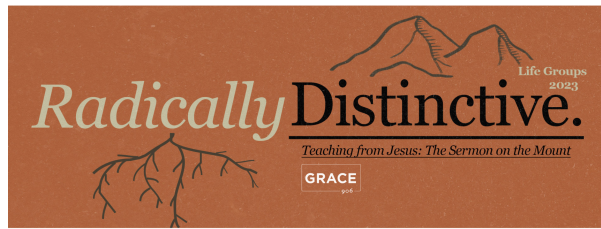


1. (Matthew 6:1) Jesus says in verse 1 that it matters how we approach the Father.
 - a. Why would Jesus be concerned about the way we approach the Father?
 - b. Is there anything about His concern that is instructive, disarming, or challenging for you?
2. (Matthew 6:2-4)
 - a. How are we tempted to be hypocritical in our giving?
 - b. What motivations besides worship do we have for giving?

Discussion: Is it possible for a believer to be hypocritical at some point? In what way might the hypocrisy of a believer be different than the hypocrisy of an unbeliever?

3. (Matthew 6:5-12) Jesus challenges how we pray to the Father.
 - a. Is Jesus saying all prayer should be private and there's not a place for corporate prayer?
 - b. Or is Jesus saying something about our approach to the Father, whether it be in a private or corporate setting?
4. Jesus provides for us a model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. This model is referred to as "The Lord's Prayer." On Sunday, Pastor Tim indicated that this prayer would be better called "The Disciple's Prayer." Why is that?
5. A. How might following this model of prayer elevate our sense of who God is?

B. Jesus taught us to open prayer by saying, "Hallowed be thy name."
Why is this significant?
6. On Sunday, Pastor Tim referenced the gaze/glance principle. Why is that so important in the life of a believer?



7. Oswald Chamber says, "Most of us make the blunder of depending on our own earnestness, not on God at all."

Do we rely on God or our own earnestness when we pray?

8. A. In your own words, what do you think Jesus means in Matthew 6:14-15.

B. What about God's forgiveness do you most value?

9. (Matthew 6:16-18) Jesus references the practice of fasting. Fasting is a Christian discipline that involves voluntarily giving up something so that we can focus on God and not be distracted. Typically, in Jesus' day, fasting involved relying on God for nourishment instead of food. It was a way of expressing a hunger for God instead of a hunger for physical sustenance. Very often, the discipline of fasting is tied to prayer.

How could this practice of fasting positively impact our practice of prayer?

CONCLUSION

10. How can this passage (Matthew 6:1-18) purify your motives?

The Christian Gospel is entirely about what God has done for us. We bring nothing to it. Our call is to receive the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus and to trust Him by faith.

How does that understanding of the Gospel catalyze your desire to pursue what Jesus outlines in Matthew 6:1-18?