



Kingdom Culture

Sunday, February 28, 2021 – Maureen Brown
“Motivated by Love” (Matthew 6:1-18)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

(These are to be used personally, with family, or with your Small Group)

Matthew's emphasis is about the kingdom of God and Jesus is the King! This remarkable kingdom culture is one that Jesus not only teaches, but ushers in through his life, ministry, death and resurrection. We are invited to live into this kingdom culture in every area of our lives. This week we are looking at Matthew 6:1-18 where Jesus teaches how we are to give, pray and fast. The Sermon on the Mount challenged the proud and legalistic religious leaders of the day and speaks to us just as loudly today.

Read Matthew 6:1-18

1. It has been said that there is nothing with more potential to separate us from God than good works. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why or why not?
2. Matthew 6 begins by telling us that we are to beware of practicing righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them. How would you define ‘acts of righteousness’ as stated in vs 1?
3. Read Matthew 5:16. Does this seem like a contradiction to what we are reading in Matthew 6? What is the difference? What tension does this create?
4. We often hear the phrase ‘pure motive’ – how do you define or discern whether a motive is pure?
5. It’s so easy to slip into the habit of doing things to impress others instead of doing them for God. Why do you think this happens?

6. If your motive is to be seen by others, Jesus warns 'you will have no reward from your Father in heaven'. What do you think He means by that?
7. Read Hebrews 10:24. We ARE called to encourage one another and spur one another on. What is the difference between 'receiving encouragement' and 'impressing others?'

Matthew 6:2-4 (Giving)

8. What does it mean to give in secret? What are some strategies you've used to be able to do this?
9. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing?"

Matthew 6:5-14 (Prayer)

10. We know that prayer is important, yet a lot of us struggle. What have you found helpful in your prayer life? How can we keep prayer authentic, personal and not showy?
11. Jesus teaches us how we should pray in vs.9-13. As you read the Lord's prayer, what are the things that stand out to you today?

Matthew 6:16-18 (Fasting)

12. Have you ever fasted? Why do you think fasting is often ignored/neglected among Christians today?
13. What are some of the reasons/uses for fasting? Who should know when we fast?

Next Steps

Share and pray together about what you have learned today and how Jesus is inviting you to respond. As we are in the season of Lent, you may find it helpful to reflect on the prayer below.

A Litany (Prayer) on Fasting

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of Light.

Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.

Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.

Fast from worry; Feast on hope and prayer.

Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.

Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from yourself; Feast on a silent heart.