

THE KING SPEAKS

a Study in the Sermon On The Mount | Discussion Guide

Week 8 – November 4

Audience of One | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Introduction

A.W. Tozer in a book entitled “The Root of the Righteous” wrote a chapter on motivation, where he made the following observation:

“The test by which all conduct must finally be judged is motive. As water cannot rise higher than its source, so the moral quality in an act can never be higher than the motive that inspires it.”

Read Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-18 before answering this week’s questions.

Questions for Study

1. Write down all the different things that motivate people to do what they do.
2. Which of the above would you say motivates you the most?
3. What do you think Tozer meant by the quote included in the introduction to this study?
4. The first verse of chapter six is an introduction to what Jesus will teach about motivation in the verses in this week’s study. It’s a warning not to do our ‘acts of righteousness’ to be seen by others. How do you think this statement connects with what Jesus said about the Pharisees and teachers of the law in Matthew 5:20?
5. Is Jesus telling us to hide our good deeds? If yes, why? If no, why? What is the real issue here?
6. In chapter five Jesus focused on how we’re to relate to other people. In chapter six, he turns his attention to our private relationship with God. This week’s study deals with this through three different ‘acts of righteousness’. What are those three acts and what does he say about each one?
7. Who do you think are the hypocrites Jesus is referring to? If they were in the large crowd of people listening to him that day, what do you think their reaction was to what he said? What were they doing that was hypocritical?
8. In each one of the examples of righteousness that Jesus gave, he said people would be rewarded. What was the reward the hypocrites received? What is the reward of the person who does these acts of righteousness for the right reason?
9. What applications should be made from this part of Christ’s sermon?