

A Call to Authenticity
Matthew 6:1-18
Authenticity
(Sermon on the Mount, Part 3)

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, **to be seen by them.** Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as **the hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴that your charitable deed may be in secret; **and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.**

⁵“And when you pray, you shall not be like the **hypocrites.** For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; **and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.** ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do.* For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

⁸“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray:

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 forgive our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever. Amen.

¹⁴“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their trespasses,

neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the **hypocrites**, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their **faces that they may appear to men to be fasting.** Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your **Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

Pray

In a certain town in Michigan there were two brothers who were just notorious hoodlums – Connected with every major Crime in the city. Well the younger of the two brothers tragically died and the older of the two wanted to have a memorial service for his brother.

Very hard time finding a church to host the service and a Pastor who would want to officiate. No one in that town liked these two young men.

So the older brother picked out a church that was in desperate need of a new roof before winter.

He made an appointment with the Pastor and said – Pastor if you allow me to hold my brothers memorial service here and you officiate – **speak** – I will write you a check for 500k to cover the cost of your new roof. –

The only CONDITION is you have to say in your message that my brother was a SAINT –

A)Pastor thought for a moment – said: Ok I will do it – shook his hand – the brother **wrote the check and the deal was done.**

The Day of the memorial came and the church was packed. Practically the whole town showed up – wondering what the Pastor was going to say.

He began his message: Talking about this younger brother who died as being a scoundrel and rotten human being – went on and on about how bad this young man was –

(The older brother was visible angry- thinking this Pastor lied) But then the Pastor said: But – Compared to his older Brother he was a Saint. What does that story have to do with anything?

A) Well whether you are a notorious criminal or an average Joe.

B) **We all want to be thought well of by others.**

1) We want people to think we are better/ more spiritual/ than we really are –

C) Appearance of having it together even when we really don't.

D) TODAY Starting the 3rd SECTION of our series here in the Sermon on the Mount. -

Authenticity

1) **JESUS DESCRIBES – What Authentic Faith looks like**

Webster's - real or genuine : not copied or false : true and accurate

A) In a study I was reading – stated that On dating sites like eHarmony.com

B) The word authenticity pops up with remarkable frequency where people are cultivating digital versions of themselves.

C) This is the real me! – Not a fake – not photoshopped

1) Seeking authentic relationship

D) Christianity Today called Authenticity one of the buzz words of the last few years

1) Amazon.com has over 100 books under the search term "Authentic Christian."

Former Secretary of State and soon to be Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton told Glamour magazine (“I believe in being as authentic as possible,”) – What does that mean?);

Even one of the oldest institutions in the world has weighed in - the Vatican. The Pope was quoted as saying

“With the increasing involvement in online life “inevitably poses questions not only of how to act properly, but also about the authenticity of one’s own being.”

He added that

“there is the challenge to be authentic and faithful, and not give in to the illusion of constructing an artificial public profile for oneself.”

Safe to say that Authenticity is important to us
Three things we want to learn about authenticity from our text today.

#1 Authenticity is also important to Jesus!

A) 1 Samuel 15 – the Prophet Samuel said to image Conscious King Saul

To obey is better than Sacrifice.

B) Saul brought the live stock of the enemy to sacrifice when God directly – said not to.

1) **God is looking for Obedience – Sincere hearts**

C) Sometimes – we fall into that habit in our Christianity of going through the motions.

1) Rituals, routines outside – look so good – Problem on the inside

D) He doesn't want our going through the motions of Christianity –

1) He wants us to be all in with our hearts -

Seen over and over in this study in the Sermon on the Mount how Jesus was concerned about the Heart

A) Our Previous discussion began in Ch. 5:20 – **Righteousness needed to exceed that the scribes and the Pharisees.**

B) In the eyes of the people the scribes and Pharisees were the **STANDARD of RIGHTEOUSNESS**

C) But Jesus pointed out that Everything they did was based on external actions –

1) But completely ignored the heart

D) Well once again Jesus is picking on the religious leaders of the day

1) To illustrate the need for genuine heart felt authenticity in our regular Christian practices

The first verse sets forth the basic principle that our Lord is driving home, “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

A) Don't do your religious deeds to be seen by men

B)And then he illustrates it in three ways. When you give, when you pray and when you fast.

C)Three common and regular disciplines of Judaism and later of followers of Christ.

D)Note: **Jesus doesn't say: If you do these things – but when –**

1)The idea being this is normal Christian behavior.

Normal Christian Disciplines – Giving/praying / fasting

When Jesus repeats himself it is important for us to pay attention to the Repetition

A)Makes three statements that he repeats three times

B)**Don't be like the Hypocrites** V.2, 5, 16

1)**Don't do....works to be seen by men.** V.1, 5, 16

C)**Father who sees in secret will.... Openly** V.4, 6, 18

D)Authenticity was so important to Jesus that He was not afraid to call the religious leaders on the carpet.

His statement Don't be like the Hypocrites was directed at them – obvious to anyone listening.

A)Hypocrisy = wearing a Mask, ie Actor

B)Image – wanting to appear to be something that you are not –

C)Jesus condemned the religion of the scribes and Pharisees – Image conscious but ignored the Heart

D)They were famous for putting on a good show in public while they **exempted themselves** from their own rules in private.

Matthew 23 - Jesus pronounces a Series of Woes on the scribes and Pharisees.

A)7 times he pronounces judgment on them for their Hypocrisy.

B)Here are two examples: v ²⁵ **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-**

indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also

C)Ladies ever have your kids or your hubby do the dishes.

1)What would you do if in morning – coffee mug – outside looked great – inside – full of ... gross?

D)Honey – or Junior get down here.

You expect the whole thing to be cleaned right?

A)Or take a House beautiful on the outside – pristine – yard amazing – beautiful

B)Inside it is like an episode of Hoarders – just gross – Something is wrong here

C)That is how Jesus saw these guys – pretty clothes – nice rituals – Rotten hearts

His next illustration is even more vivid: ²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.”

A)You guys are like a pretty tombstone on the outside – but underneath is a dead person – dead mans bones

B)We might put it this way: On the outside you are like a beautiful \$4,000 dollar mahogany Casket – Just gorgeous

C)Inside is a DEAD MAN – no life – Put in the ground – flesh rots

D)That is how Jesus saw their Hearts – No Life

E)**What about Your heart? - Life – His Spirit**

1)Pretending – Playing games?

#1 Authenticity is important to Jesus

#2 Authenticity involves Motives

A)Jesus uses a negative expression concerning motive in all three examples:

V.1 Concerning giving – **they do it to be seen by men.**

V.5 Concerning Prayer – **they do it to be seen by men.**

B)V.16 Concerning fasting puts it a little different in He says ¹⁶“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting.

C)Same idea: Wanting to be seen by men

D)It is also worth noting that Jesus also says in each case three times –V.2,V.5, V.16 that when the motivation is to be seen by men.

E)They have their reward: that is the reward – they have it in full

Here is what was going on: In relationship to giving:

A)There was an area at the side of the temple courtyard called the Chamber of the Secret.

B)People would go there and drop gifts designated for the poor in a large chest called the Trumpet.

C)Later, the poor would come to the Chamber of the Secret and receive gifts from the Trumpet.

1)It was all done very discreetly, with humility and honesty.

D)But as the years went on, the Pharisees decided it wasn't practical to go all the way to the temple to give alms to the poor.

So instead, they tied a small brass or silver trumpet to their belts.

A)Then, whenever they wanted to give to the poor, they stood on a street corner and blew their trumpets.

B)Upon hearing this, the poor people in the area would gather around the Pharisee as he distributed his alms with great flourish,

1)Everyone standing around would say: “WOW! Look how generous he is!”

C)So Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites because they gave not out of concern for the poor, but that they might be seen by men.

We see this today:

A)Celebrities that go to a 3rd world country to do some charity work – but they bring a film crew to document it.

B)Some might sincerely be doing that to bring awareness to a tough area of the world

C)But I think many do it to be able to say: Look at me look at what I am doing.

1)Somehow makes them feel a little better about themselves

In the Church too: One large church that I won't mention – Houston Rockets used to play there

A)Front row seats can be bought – and Luxury like boxes are given to big donors.

B)I had a Pastor here in San Diego tell me years ago – he sent a personal letter to the top ten givers in his church every week.

C)Imagine the person who is giving hoping to get that letter. – I didn't make it this week

1)That is part of the subtle manipulation going on in that sort of thing

D)When I was young we went to a Church where the Pastor would often say: I believe – always touching forehead

1)5 people here today that God is moving on your heart – give \$1000 dollars – Please stand

D)Jesus says The complete opposite: “when you give – don't even let your right hand know what your left hand is doing” – Give in Secret

One of the greatest displays of this happened here at the Church several yrs ago. –

A)A young man in our church who came from a simple family not well off by any means.

B)Well he graduated from High School and received monetary gifts that totaled \$1000 that was his life savings

C)Nice feeling for a young man – Have money like that in his bank account

D)Some of you are thinking – that would be nice now.

This young man heard about another young lady in the youth group who's family had really been through some rough times.

A) This young girl who had also just graduated had a dream to go to Bible college – but she was short tuition money

B) This young man came to me and said: **I don't want anyone to know I did this but I really feel like God wants me to do this:**

I want to give \$500 of the \$1000 dollars I got for graduating to this girl so she can go to Bible college.

C) Isn't that amazing – He gave half of his life savings to help someone else in Need!

But He did it secretly.

A) I still know that young man and He has been blessed – or might say rewarded in so many ways.

B) God is a giver and He wants his Children to be givers to: **BUT MOTIVE IS EVERYTHING**

C) 1 Corinthians 3: Apostle Paul compares our motives to these elements: Good motives are like gold, silver, jewels.

D) Bad motives are like wood, hay, or straw.

Here is the distinction he makes:

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
NKJV

Not just giving of our offerings: Prayer and fasting'

A) Once again: The Problem with the religious leaders is they prayed to be seen and heard by men

B) Prayer - they would announce it on the corner – the Religious man is praying

C) Look how holy and articulate he is

We can do that – Praying to be heard by others - Selfie of myself praying - Post it on Facebook

A) *We must pray in secret before we pray in public*

B) Praying is communing with God – bearing our souls – being real

1) God just wants to hear your heart

C) Charles Spurgeon – Asked a Pastor to open up a Pastors meeting – (**Long flowery Prayer**)

1) To which the great Mr. Spurgeon – replied – Next time Brother so and so – Do your Devo's at home.

D) The worst: Praying for a meal – On and on

Same problem regarding fasting:

A) The only fast that God actually required of the Jewish people was on the annual Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27).

B) The Pharisees fasted each Monday and Thursday (Luke 18:12)

C) **But they did it in such a way that that people knew they were fasting.**

1) They would put ashes on their heads – not shave – look messy

D) Today that look is in and has nothing to do with fasting.

Their purpose, of course, was to win the praise of men. As a result, the Pharisees lost God's blessing.

A) But here is how we do the same thing

B) Announcing on Facebook – I am starting a 40 day fast, who wants to join me?

B) Often times the motivation is – Look at me

1) Look what I am doing for Jesus – look How serious of a follower of Christ – I am

Talking to a Pastor friend of mine a year or so ago.

A) Younger guy and the Lord was opening up opportunities to speak all over the place

B) He would take pictures of him with these famous Pastors he was speaking at all these churches.

1) And then he would post the pics of them on

Instagram; With some caption – Blessed to speak at such and such a place with so and so

C) Now I don't think there is anything wrong with doing that – If the Heart is just to say: "Blessed by these people or amazed at what God is allowing me to do."

D) Or Heading to such and such a place, please be praying:

1) I want as many people praying for me as possible when I travel – why I always tell you where I am going

E) I am going as an extension of you. Always share about you guys – what a great body of believers I get to be a part of.

F) But my friend told me – the Lord busted him and he had to stop sharing the pics

1) Because his motive was to be seen by men – Look where I am now.

JESUS' POINT – MOTIVE IS EVERYTHING.

A) IF YOUR MOTIVE IS TO BE SEEN BY MEN –

That is your Reward. – PAID IN FULL!!!!- Clap

B) Your Reward is to be seen as being BIG IN THE EYES OF MEN –

1) But nothing in the Eyes of God.

C) Parable of the sheep and the goats – People who did all these great things for God

1) Jesus will say: Depart from me I never knew you!

D) HEAVY!

So this passage teaches us that:

#1 Authenticity is important to Jesus

#2 Authenticity involves Motives

#3 Authenticity is Rewarded:

A) Three times Jesus says: your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Hebrews 6:10

¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Rewards openly:

A) Sometimes it is here: Recognition that was not being sought after.

B) Good to affirm: Encourage one another when doing well.

C) **DOESN'T MEAN LOSE THEIR REWARD**

I appreciate it when people tell me they were blessed by the message:

A) Post on Facebook – It is a blessing – to know that you were a blessing

B) But I don't do what I do for that reason.

Rewarded openly: In Heaven

A) God is going to acknowledge the things we do here with the right motives – REWARDED

B) Some of you are going to be rewarded: BIG TIME

1) YOU do so much in secret