

“The Secret Life of the Believer”

Matthew 6:1-18

I. Warning

A. Beware!

B. The Danger

C. The Harm We Suffer

II. Three Examples

A. Giving to Poor

B. Prayer

C. Fasting

Matthew 9:14,15

Then the disciples of John came to Him, asking, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

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III. Take-aways

A. Evaluate our Religious Practices

B. What we do when no one is around

“What was so bad about the Pharisees’ hypocrisy? If we think of it as consisting merely in their teaching or pretending one thing while in fact practicing something contradictory, we will miss Jesus’ main point. What He nailed them for was that they were using God and the things of God as a means to some other end. That’s what was insidious about the Pharisees’ example. “They do all their deeds to be noticed by men” (Matthew 23:5). ...

Theirs was a problem of priorities: their first priority was social status, to which end God was but a means. What greater affront to God could there be? Better to ignore Him altogether than to exploit Him as a means to something else you value more highly.” - John Boykin

