



Series: Unexpected Messiah
Passage Mathew 6:1-18
Title: The Intent of Spiritual Discipline
Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 5/31/2020

Discussion Starter – In what way has this sermon challenged you to look at how you view and practice these three spiritual disciplines mentioned in Matthew 6:1-18?

Going Through the Motions in Our Giving to the Needy (verses 6:1-4)

- Jesus continues to show what a righteousness surpassing that of the scribes and the Pharisees Matthew (5:20) looks like by comparing it with three main areas of Jewish religious piety. How have they corrupted the discipline of giving to the poor? What does their hypocrisy look like? What is its motivation and reward?
- What differences do you think there were in Jesus' time on earth versus now as it relates to giving to the poor? How are some of the ways we can be hypocritical in our giving to the poor? How does this contrast with genuine compassion for the poor?
- Why do you think Jesus used the metaphor of sounding the trumpet in the hypocritical giving mentioned in verse 2? What does sounding the trumpet look like today and what is the warning against it?
- **Going Through the Motions in Our Prayers (verses 6:5-15)**
- How does the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees affect their prayer?
- Why do you think Jesus' instruction was tell the disciples to go into your room and close the door? What is the secret place mentioned here where the Father is?
- How do we know if we are being too wordy in our prayers?
- Jesus transitions into the discourse of the model prayer. This was to teach them how to pray not necessarily what to pray. What are the key elements you see contained in this model prayer? How would you summarize the main purpose of prayer in our lives?
- **Going Through the Motions in Our Fasting (verses 6:16-18)**
- What is the purpose of fasting? Why do you think it is the least emphasized of the three spiritual disciplines mentioned?
- What spiritual disciplines do you value? What attitudes does it take to practice these spiritual disciplines correctly? How does that relate to the attitudes expressed in Mathew 5:3-11?
- When used properly, what is the value of spiritual discipline?
- Read Isaiah 1:10-20. In what way do you see this passage of scripture applicable to the world we live in today? What spiritual direction do you think we are going into and why?