



July 27, 2025

Josh Parrish

Matthew 6:1-21

Introduction

This week's message explores the complex tension between doing righteousness and our motivations for doing it. Josh challenges us to examine not just what we do, but why we do it, using the story of finding a lost dog to illustrate how good intentions can be corrupted by selfish motives. Through Matthew 6:1-21, Jesus reveals that our hearts cannot seek two rewards—we cannot store treasures both on earth and in heaven. The message emphasizes that what matters to Jesus isn't the result but the motive, calling us to pursue a reward with God alone, for God alone is our greatest reward.

Key Texts: Matthew 6:1-21; 1 Kings 18; Acts 19; Genesis 1-2

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you did something good but later realized your motives weren't as pure as you initially thought. What shifted in your heart along the way?

Discussion Questions

1. Josh opened by asking: Have you ever done the wrong thing? The right thing? The right thing for the wrong reasons? Which of these feels most challenging to admit, and why?
2. **Read Matthew 6:1 together.** Jesus warns against practicing righteousness "to be seen by others." What's the difference between doing good works publicly versus doing them "to be seen"? How can we tell the difference in our own hearts?

3. **Read Matthew 6:2-6 together.** Jesus uses the term "hypocrite" (meaning "actor" or "mask-wearer"). In what areas of your life do you find yourself most tempted to "perform" your faith for others rather than living authentically before God?
4. **Read Matthew 6:7-15 together.** The Lord's Prayer sits at the center of this passage about motives. How does this prayer model the kind of heart attitude Jesus wants us to have? What does it mean to pray for "daily bread" rather than abundance or security?
5. **Read Matthew 6:19-21 together.** Josh emphasized that "My heart cannot seek two rewards; I cannot store two treasures." Why is it impossible to pursue both earthly and heavenly rewards simultaneously?
6. Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Josh suggested three diagnostic questions:
 - Is the future you dream about most, eternal or temporal?
 - What do you seek when you are most stressed and overwhelmed?
 - How do you spend your time, talent, and treasure when you are alone?
7. Which of these questions feels most convicting to you, and why?
8. What's one specific area where you sense God calling you to move from performing for others to serving Him alone? How can your Community Group support you in pursuing wholeness rather than human approval?

Key Takeaways

- My heart cannot seek two rewards; I cannot store two treasures
- What matters to Jesus isn't the result; it's the motive
- The way of Jesus pursues a reward with God alone, and God alone is the reward
- We can deceive others, but we cannot deceive God—He sees our hearts
- God is not a God of shame, but of love and renewal

Notes