



## KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH

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KINGDOM-FOCUSED CROSS-CENTERED

### **DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS 1**

**The Sermon on the Mount – Session 4**

***Avoiding Religious Hypocrisy***

March 22, 2017

**Text: Matthew 6:1-18**

#### **Session 3 Review**

In the third session, we considered the last four of the six illustrations that Jesus used to magnify the law to show us our inability to keep it, all for one reason: to point us to himself.

In the remaining four illustrations in Matthew 5:31-48, we considered the words of Jesus about divorce (and how he calls his disciples to faithfulness in marriage); taking oaths (and how he calls his disciples to honesty of speech); our natural tendency to retaliate (and how he calls us to turn the other cheek and go the extra mile); and our tendency to love selectively (and how Jesus calls us to love even our enemies).

#### **Session 4 Overview**

In this fourth session, we will consider the words of Jesus as he warns against religious hypocrisy (Matthew 6:1-18). Jesus begins by saying: "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 6:1). Then he goes on to warn against the issue of religious hypocrisy in three specific areas: giving to the needy (verses 1-4), praying to God (verses 5:15), and fasting from food (verses 16-18). Why these three areas? Because in Jewish religion and among the Pharisees, giving of alms, praying to God, and fasting from food were three righteous acts that marked true religious piety.

As he addresses religious hypocrisy, Jesus indicates that his disciples are expected to do acts of righteousness. We know this because he says "*when* you give to the needy," "*when* you pray," and "*when* you fast." But Jesus warns us that we must not be hypocrites, and that our acts of righteousness must be done for the eyes of God and praise of God, not for the eyes and praise of man.

In each case, Jesus provides a promise for doing our acts of righteousness for God's eyes. He says, "And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

In a world where people post and share any and everything on social media, let us hear and obey these words of our Lord and do our acts of righteousness for an audience of one: God.