

Message Series Group Discussion May 8-9, 2021

INFO	
Series	What if Jesus was Serious?
Sermon	The Respectability Trap
Main Idea/Summary	Live for an Audience of One
Scripture	Matthew 6: 1-18 , 1 Kings 7: 13-22, Genesis 15

QUESTIONS	
About God	God gave us the innate desire to seek affirmation from Him for a job well done. It's similar to the way a child seeks affirmation from a parent. The Father knew that even Jesus needed this affirmation. How does knowing that God wants to affirm us and pour blessings onto us, embody your current picture of who God is?
About Me	Aristotle said, "When people don't feel loved, they will seek to be admired." Overtime admiration leads to pretending. Have you ever felt unloved, either by earthly parents, a spouse, or by God? How did the feeling of being unloved shape your experiences? If you've never felt that way, how did feeling loved shape your experiences?
Community	According to the late Dallas Willard, one of the greatest traps in the Christian life is wanting the respect and approval of others and doing things for that reason. How do you see the respectability trap playing out on social media? How has the use of social media affected your need to seek approval from people rather than God?
Mission	During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus used three illustrations regarding giving, prayer & fasting. If you do those things for the approval of people, you get your reward. It just doesn't last long. If you do those things for God, the reward has eternal significance. As a culture that has gotten used to immediate gratification and praise, how do we live this out?
Action	Do something this week that is just for an audience of One. Tell no one. Be anonymous. And take joy in the love of worshipping the Father and receiving the heavenly reward of a job well done.

Ask Yourself This: Why do I do what I do? Do I matter only if I'm noticed? Why do I need the approval of others?

Father, we know that you are the true reward. Yet, we get so distracted by the approval of people that we forget how great your affirmation and love is. Help us to be people that give, pray and fast for the right reasons, Lord -- to grow in intimacy with you, seeking attention and approval from an audience of One. Help us to be people that cheer on one another and let us outdo each other in handing out blessings and praise. We love you, Lord. Thank you for loving us. Amen.