

*When The Kingdom Comes*  
**“The Power of a Secret Life”**  
*The Sermon on the Mount #5*  
Matthew 6:1-18

## INTRODUCTION

As born again believers we have residence in two worlds: the natural world and the invisible Kingdom of God. Even though we live within the natural world, we are pilgrims and subjects of God’s Kingdom. That Kingdom is not seen with our eyes, but it is very real. This portion of the Sermon on the Mount deals with the way we choose to focus our actions and attention on God and His invisible Kingdom, rather than on the natural world and those in it.

**Ice Breaker (Optional – 8 MIN):** How many things can your group think of that are unseen, but you know are real? (e.g. – wind, love...)

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

**Q1. Read Colossians 2:2-3, Matthew 13:44, Proverbs 2:2-5**

The treasures of the Kingdom are not hidden *from* you, they are hidden *for* you. What are some of those treasures named in these scriptures? What must we do to find these treasures?

**Q2. Read John 5:44, Matthew 6:1, 23:5-8, Psalm 86:11, Ephesians 6:6**

These verses warn us about valuing what people think of us above pleasing God. The term eye-service in Ephesians comes from the Greek word ophthalmoulia and implies one who is “a slave to being seen.” Are there times that you have been concerned more about the opinions of men than God? What do such actions reveal about the condition of our heart and motives of our actions?

**Q3. Read Matthew 6:2-4, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Incredibly, we are given the opportunity to bring God’s blessing to those in need. But we ourselves choose how we handle this responsibility. What pitfalls must we avoid, and what rewards will we forfeit if we choose poorly?

**Q4. Read Matthew 6:5-13**

What challenges do you find in praying “public” prayers? How does praying in “the secret place” protect us from “less than godly” motives?

**Q5. Read Matthew 6:16-18, Matthew 4:4, John 6:51**

Fasting is more than just a diet for the body, it is abstinence from food for spiritual purposes. What spiritual “rewards” have you experienced (or wish to) through fasting? (e.g. guidance, humility, deliverance, strengthened prayer...)

## WRAP-UP

There are many references in scripture where Jesus instructs us on how to conduct our secret lives. God doesn’t want us to fall victim to people pleasing as “slaves to being seen”. Such actions may have temporal rewards, but when we are “bondservants of Christ”, working for the Lord, and not men, we have an unsurpassable, heavenly reward from God himself.

## Memory Verse

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

*Matthew 6:1 NIV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs:*

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## Challenge:

Seek God for a purpose and time to fast this week. You might begin to explore fasting by skipping a meal and dedicating the time and money saved to God in some way. – from Fasting by Michael Bischof, which can be found on our sermons webpage. (Remember to focus on the purpose God reveals to you, not on the amount of time spent fasting.)

**Q1.**

**Colossians 2:2-3 NIV - 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

**Matthew 13:44 NIV - 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.**

**Proverbs 2:2-5 NIV - 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.**

**Q2.**

**John 5:44 NIV - 44 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?**

**Matthew 6:1 (NIV) 1 "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.**

**Matthew 23:5-8 NIV - 5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6 they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.' 8 "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers.**

**Psalms 86:11 NIV - 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.**

**Ephesians 6:6 ESV - 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,**

**Q3.**

**Matthew 6:2-4 NIV - 2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.**

**Colossians 3:23-24 NIV - 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**

**1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV - 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.**

**Q4.**

**Read Matthew 6:5-13 in your bibles**

**Q5. Matthew 6:16-18 NIV - 16 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.**

**Matthew 4:4 NIV - 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "**

**John 6:51 NIV - 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**