

Don't Be a Pharisee

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

The Warning:

"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." (Matt. 6:1)

_____ is the oldest human theater!

Example 1: Almsgiving

"When you give to the needy ..."

The "here-or-there-but-not-both" principle:

The "right-hand, left-hand" principle:

3 considerations when giving to help others:

- 1) Don't give to be _____ or _____.
- 2) Give _____.
- 3) Give to please _____, not to please _____.

Example 2: Prayer

⁵ *"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. (Matt 6:5a)*

The Pharisees loved to pray on ...

_____ ...

And in the _____ ...

3 considerations when praying:

- 1) Pray for _____ and no one else's.
- 2) Pray without _____.
- 3) Pray with _____ and not "vain repetition".
What about written prayers?

Example 3: Fasting

¹⁶ *"And when you fast ..."*

Jesus _____ that His people will fast ...

3 considerations when fasting:

- 1) Fast as _____, not _____.
- 2) Don't separate the _____ from the _____.
- 3) Keep it _____ and personal. It's between you and God.

Conclusions:

Jesus did not disallow giving, praying, or fasting. All those are good, godly, and *necessary* activities for believers. Nor did he disallow expressing faith _____.

The issue – as we have seen in the Sermon on the mount – is the _____!

Don't let hypocrisy rob you of _____ Christian flourishing now and priceless _____ later!

What motivates me?

What is my reward?

Who do I aim to please?