

## Week 3: Hidden in the Lord

Read Matthew 6:5-15.

<b>Our Intentions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What seem to be the intentions of the people praying?</li><li>• Verse 5 reads, “they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others.” The Greek word for seen means “to bring into the light, cause to shine.” Why do the people want to be seen?</li><li>• As human beings, we want to boast about our goodness in the light, while often hiding the pieces of us that are less than attractive. What things are we quick to bring into the light? What are things that we rather leave in the darkness?</li><li>• In what ways do you people want to be seen and known in your life?</li></ul>
<b>God’s Idea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What does God desire for people in regards to prayer?</li><li>• What is the purpose of prayer?</li><li>• Read verse 6. Jesus seems to emphasis a need for secrecy. Why would this be important?</li><li>• What does it mean that God will reward you? What is he rewarding you for?</li><li>• <i>Prayer is about orienting your heart first towards God; out of that alignment with God comes a sincere love for others. In the private space with the Father, it is not about earning His favor or saying the right things to get what you want. It is ultimately about knowing how He really feels about you.</i></li></ul>
<b>Social Media’s Influence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you see these themes relating to social media? (if they can come up with their own connections, explore them!)</li><li>• What kind of things are you posting on social media (posts and stories)? What do you find yourself looking at most often?</li><li>• What do we want to bring into the light? What do we want to keep in hiding?</li><li>• We have created a sparse margin for privacy in our lives. People post how they are feeling, what they are eating, where they are going and everything in between. How could this be impacting our relationship with God?</li></ul>
<b>Kingdom Intersection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Colossians 3:2-4. What does it mean to be hidden in the Lord?</li><li>• God sees you and desires time alone with you. What does it mean to cultivate private, intimate time with God?</li><li>• If you were pursuing a romantic relationship with someone and rather than being present, you posted every intimate moment on social media... it would take away from the power of your time together. How could this relate to time you spend with God?</li><li>• Read Psalm 139. How can you find comfort in being seen and known by God in this passage?</li></ul>

## Implications for Us

- God wants to show you sunsets that were just for your eyes. God wants you to rejoice over a beautiful plated meal just between you and Him. In these moments of sweetness, intimacy is cultivated with the Father.
- How can you find ways to cultivate this kind of intimacy with God?
- In what ways do you really want to be known?
- Why is it important to have people in your life that you can be real with? People that know you and love you as your most honest self? Do you have those people in your life?

**Heart of the Matter:** *God sees you and desires time alone with you. When you are hidden in Him, you feel the most seen and loved. The world might offer you temporary attention and affirmation, but God sees every part of you and satisfies your innermost self.*