

Week 4: Longing for Glory

Read Matthew 6:16-18

Pre-work: What is fasting? What is the purpose? What is the difference between refraining and fasting?

Our Intentions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the hypocrites doing in this passage?• Why would they want others to know that they are fasting?• What does it mean that they will receive their reward in full?• Read Matthew 23:25-28. What does it mean that the people are quick to clean the outside of the cup rather than the inside?• Do you see places in our world where people want to portray an image on the outside that may not be aligned with pure intentions?
God's Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In verse 17, why does Jesus want them to put oil on their heads and wash their faces?• Why should this act not be obvious to others?• Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What does this say about God's heart and desires for us?• What is the reward of Father's attention?
Social Media's Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The hypocrites were masters at distorting their appearance for their own glory. How do we see others distorting their appearance or posts for their own glory?• What is the image that people want to display to others?• Social media users filter experiences to portray a specific image. Why do we do that?• What does it look like to use social media without projecting a distorted image? What are examples of a positive expression of social media usage?
Kingdom Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Isaiah 58, the prophet talks about what true fasting is. The people are wrapped up in going through the motions, being religious and doing religious things, but God is after their hearts. Read Isaiah 58.• In verses 6-7, what does God really desire from our hearts?• In verse 8, Isaiah says, "the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard." The glory of God will literally have your back, protecting you from behind. What would it mean to be protected by the glory of the Lord rather than the glory of man?• In verse 11, what is the promise and hope God gives? How is this an encouragement?
Implications for Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our hearts all have a longing for glory. How do we live for the glory of God rather than the glory of man?• Read Psalm 8:3-9. What does this say about how God has made us? He has made us to sit under him and crown us with his glory and honor.• How do we see this week connecting to the previous weeks? 1st week: Trumpets announcing goodness vs. The light of life. 2nd week: Seeking intimacy and a hidden heart with God in prayer.• How could this teaching align our hearts with more of God's intentions for us?

Heart of the Matter: *God has put a longing in each of our hearts that can only be satisfied with his love and glory. We can try to fill it with the glory of man, but it will only leave us emptier than we began. The glory of God does not begin with any outward appearances or actions, but a surrendered heart. He wants you to bring your heart to him and pursue his glory above all else.*