

theHOME SHEET

Vices | Part 3 | Vainglory

March 20, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18 | Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret: and you Father who sees in secret will reward you.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

1. Pastor Fernie offers us two definitions of vainglory.

“An excessive and disordered desire for recognition and approval from others.” Rebecca DeYoung

“Vainglory is essentially rooted in insecurity and is driven by our need for affirmation by others.”
-James Bryan Smith

- a. Have you ever sought affirmation/approval from others when you were insecure about something? Why?
2. In the scripture above, in what ways were people more interested in how they were perceived by others than in actually living out their faith?
 - a. What does Jesus tell them about this?
 3. Have you ever tried to trick people into thinking you were a certain way when you really weren't?
 - a. How much time and energy did you spend trying to make people think you were something you weren't?
 - b. Could you have spent that time learning to improve on that part of you instead?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- Constantly ask yourself why you are doing things – is it for recognition or is it to help our world more fully reflect the kingdom of God?
- Change your perspective: instead of doing things for your own glory or recognition, do things that glorify God. Remove yourself from the center of attention and place God in that seat of honor.