

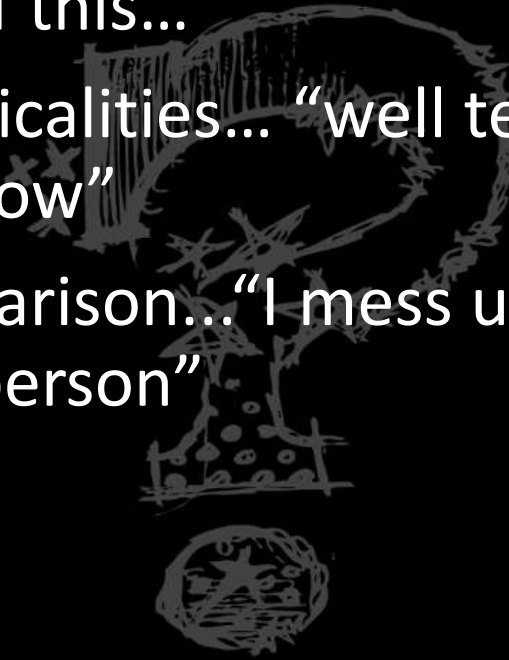


MOTIVATION

Examining Your Motives

We are all guilty of this...

1. Through technicalities... “well technically, I wasn’t, you know”
2. Through comparison... “I mess up, but not as much as that person”



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Examining Your Motives

Matthew 6:1-18

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think 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. This, then, is how you should pray:

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“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting.

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Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others 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.”

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Ground work

1. We need to understand what is being communicated (let us not take it completely literally)
2. We also need to understand what is not being communicated.

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1. Giving

- Condemning self boasting
- Don't give to be honored by others

*Do you ever give when nobody's looking or are you always trying to make sure someone notices?

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2. Prayer

- Prayer shouldn't be to seem righteous before others
- He isn't saying "don't pray in public"
- Don't try to impress people with many words
- Jesus gives us the Lord's prayer as an example
 - First, Acknowledges God
 - Then prayers for needs
 - and the ability to forgive

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3. Fasting

- Go out of your way to hide your fasting
- They have received their reward...
- We will be receiving a reward from our father...
 - What is the reward he is talking about?

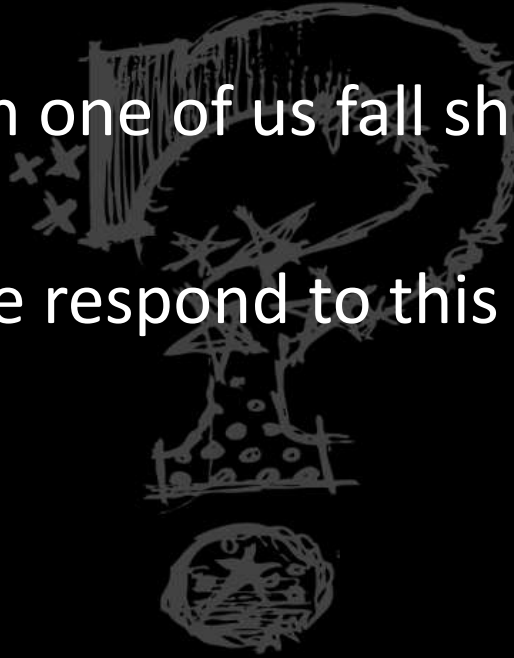
*Our reward is to be with the Lord,
which is only made possible because of
the righteousness that we have through
Jesus*

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SO WHAT!?

1. How does each one of us fall short of this standard?
2. How should we respond to this passage?



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Luke 18:9-14

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

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But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

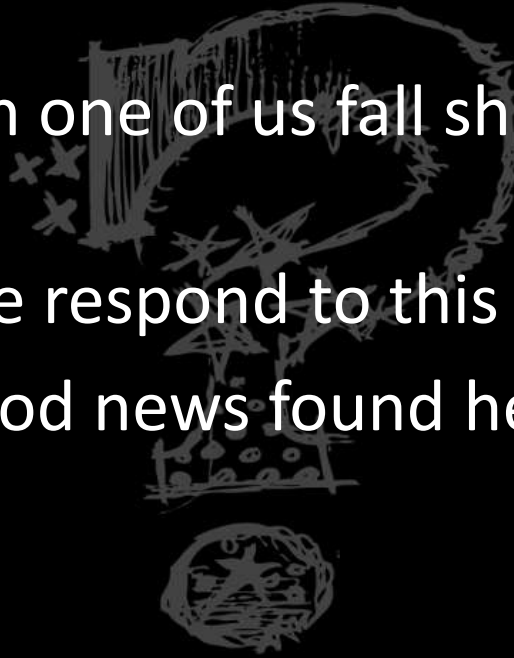


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SO WHAT!?

1. How does each one of us fall short of this standard?
2. How should we respond to this passage?
3. What is the good news found here?



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