



“LIVING FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 8 of 19

Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 6:1

Big Idea: When our utmost desire is to please God, we are not overly concerned about what others may think of us.

2 Corinthians 5:9, “Therefore also we have as our ambition whether at home or absent to be pleasing to Him.” {NASV}

Matthew 6:1, “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

I. ACTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE A WONDERFUL THING.

Matthew 6:1a, “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men.”

II. ACTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS DONE WITH THE WRONG MOTIVE, LEAD TO SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

John 5:30b, “I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”

John 5:44, “How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?”

Matthew 6:1a, “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them.”

Matthew 6:3-4, “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.”

Matthew 6:6, “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.”

Matthew 6:17, “But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to men 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.”

III. THE ANTIDOTE TO SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS IS DOING ALL YOUR ACTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE.

Let’s review:

Acts of righteousness are a wonderful thing.

Acts of righteousness done with the wrong motive, lead to self- righteousness.

The antidote to self-righteousness is doing all your acts of righteousness for an audience of One.

Raise me above the smiles and frowns of the world, regarding it as a light thing to be judged by men; May thy approbation be my only aim, Thy Word my one rule.