

### **Problem**

We want credit for our piety. Discuss the following article and its implications:

<http://technorati.com/technology/article/charity-steve-jobs-vs-the-world/>

### **Beware of fake worship (Matthew 6:1)**

-Read Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 5:20 and 5:48. Based on this context, is it possible that Jesus was saying these things (Matt. 6:1) to help us self-improve?

-Read Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:9-12 and 10:1-4. What is so bad about our 'self righteousness?'

-Read Zechariah 3:1-4 and Matthew 22:1-4. Whose righteousness are we to wear?

-Read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/gospelenemy.html>

### **Fake giving (Matthew 6:2-4)**

-Jesus is not establishing a new law for today where we are only to pray in secret. Read Acts 4:34-37 and contrast it with Acts 5:1-11. What was the issue? What were they seeking in their lies? Read John 5:42-47 and 12:36-43 for the answer.

-Giving for recognition is always a danger, even for a church. Read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.biblicaljiujitsu.com/feeding-hungry/>

### **Fake praying (Matthew 6:5-15)**

-Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2 and 1 Timothy 2:1. Do you think Jesus' point in this sermon was that we should not pray in public? In Matthew 6:5 what is the key expression that is wrong with hypocritical public praying? Read Luke 18:9-14 for an illustration.

-What about babbling and repeating yourself? Read Matthew 26:36-46 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-8. Was Christ repetition in prayer to God? The real problem is that people think they earn a right to their request based on their ritual or whatever. Read 1 Kings 18:20-29 and Acts 8:9-24 for an illustration of this.

-read Matthew 6:7-9. Notice the word, 'like.' What was the 'Lord's prayer,' a response to? What is ironic about how we actually see this prayer used?

-Read James 4:1-3 and contrast it with this sermon.

-Read and discuss the following article about the Lord's prayer:

<http://bigsandychurch.wordpress.com/2012/06/25/excerpt-from-sproul-on-using-the-lords-prayer-as-a-pattern-for-personal-prayer/>

### **Fake fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)**

-Read Isaiah 58. How does God feel about hypocrisy?

-Read: Matthew 26:31-35, 74-75; Galatians 2:13; Romans 7:19-25 and 1 Timothy 1:15. Being a failure does not make you the kind of hypocrite God hates. At the time this message was originally preached, who truly worshipped God (remember: Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:9-12 and 10:1-4)?

-Remember this is not a message to try harder. It is a message about repentance. Here is where I sit: I give and I pray and I often give things up for my faith. But I am condemned. Week after week I step into this pulpit as a man with mixed motives, wanting to serve God but also wanting to get credit, to seem pious, to be honored. I am not a fake, I am a forgiven failure in process of becoming more and more like the righteousness I wear.

The Kingdom of Heaven will be filled with forgiven failures but it will not have any self-righteous-fakes.

Read Matthew 23:12-36.

**Here is the Main Idea:**

Beware of fake worship done for the applause of man. The heart of public worship is private worship.

Self righteous people do not seek God in private. They do not seek God at all. They are hypocrites putting their perceived goodness on display for the applause of men. You say 'that could never be me.' Does your public worship/service to God reflect your secret/private service? Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

Discuss specific ways to apply this message to your lives.

Here is a great article if you get stuck:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/fake-Christians.html>