SERMON ON THE MOUNT Week 11

Read Matthew 6:16-18

Note: This the 3rd "hypocrite" warning. Remember, the Greek word translated "hypocrite" referred to a stage actor who wore a mask to play a role. We can often think of hypocrites as not doing what they say, but the Biblical warning is against those who play a role publicly while hiding their true identity.

Retell: Summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying about hypocrisy and fasting.

Discuss: What "reward" would the hypocritical Pharisees get from looking somber?

Can you think of an example where you have tried to get people to notice how bad you felt or how much you are sacrificing? What reward were you seeking?

What heart motive is the Father looking for when we are fasting or doing something else hard?

Application: What practical step can you take today to battle hypocrisy or sacrifice for Christ? Write it down and share it with the group.

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