

discussion guide for June 3rd

*“How to Impress God”*

Mt. 6:1-6; 16-18 (p. 1255-1256-DSB\*)

GRIND IT  
BREW IT  
DRINK IT  
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

Is hypocrisy a problem in the modern church?

Think about this formula:

*Hypocrisy = Belief – Actions.*

This would mean the greater distance between belief and action, the greater the hypocrisy.

- Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Do you think “Belief” in the formula above is what a person says they believe or what they really believe? Does it matter? Why?
- A common saying is “*Who a person is, is who they are in the dark.*” What do you think this means? Is it true?
- Do most people have a true self and a public self? for a follower of Christ, should they be the same thing? Why?

\*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Pastor Tom talked about three choices we need to consider with every action. We choose between two audiences, two arenas, and two accolades. Ask someone to read Mt. 6:1-6, and 16-18 (p. 1255-1256-DSB\*).

1. In verses 2, 5, & 16, what audience/arena/accolade is indicated? Why did Jesus say “like the hypocrites do” in these verses? Is it always hypocrisy to let people know about your giving, praying, or fasting? Why? Why not? What makes it hypocrisy?
2. In verses 3-4, 6, & 18, what audience/arena/accolade is indicated? Why are these the better choices?
3. Pastor Tom said, “You are just as self-centered if you *neglect* these things (prayer, giving, fasting), because you *don't* get respect and admiration. Do you agree? Why? Why not?”
4. Find every mention of “reward” in Mt. 6:1-6, and 16-18 (p. 1255-1256-DSB\*). What makes them different? What determines which reward is received?
5. Are the Father’s rewards eternal only? Explain.
6. If people somehow find out about what you have done in service to God and recognize you, does that negate your reward from God? Why? Why not?

\*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Jesus said in every action, you have a choice between two *audiences*, two *arenas*, and two accolades: you can give, pray and fast publicly to impress others or you can give, pray, and fast privately to impress God. What is your level of hypocrisy? Neglecting these things because you won't get noticed is just as bad as doing them so you will get noticed. Give yourself a score between 1-100 in each of these areas:

0=No Hypocrisy, and 100 =Total Hypocrisy

\_\_\_ I don't really pray unless I know someone is listening, and then I try to sound as spiritual as I can.

\_\_\_ If I give money, I want some credit for it, especially if it is over my regular giving.

\_\_\_ I don't fast because I really don't see any point to it unless someone knows about me doing it.

\_\_\_ If I fast, I find subtle ways of letting people know.

\_\_\_ I like to pray in public because I think I am a good speaker and other say they appreciate it.

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Prayer needs of people outside the group.
- Prayer needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving \_\_\_\_\_ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the "*Savor*" section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving a daily e-mail, [Sign up for "The Daily Cup" e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org](#)

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)\*\*

Last week you discussed integrity in your prayer life, your giving habits, and in fasting. These readings with help reinforce what you learned:

Monday, June 4: Read Psalm 62:5-12, (p. 715-DSB\*).

What "two things" had David heard about God? What can you be sure of concerning reward? How does this help you make good choices in your actions?

Tuesday, June 5: Read Proverbs 11:18-21, (p. 809-DSB\*).

What are "deceptive wages" and how do they differ from "sure reward"? How does God feel about pure motives in what we do? What is the advantage of making the right choice and having the right motives?

Wednesday, June 6: Read Jeremiah 17:10, (p. 995-DSB\*).

What does the Lord search? What does He examine? Where would He find our intentions? Where would he find our motives? Conduct is rewarded only after God has done what? How does God determine what our deeds deserve?

Thursday, June 7: Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-25, (p. 1514-DSB\*). What have you learned are parameters God uses to test the quality of man's work? What happens to the work that is not the right quality? When does this happen? Do you still go to heaven? What loss do you suffer?

Friday, June 8: Read Colossians 3:23-25, (p. 1579-DSB\*).

What does it mean to work at something will all your heart? What audience are we to focus on when we serve the Lord Christ? Do we need to be concerned about what other people are doing or not doing, comparing our works to theirs?

\*\*DSB\*=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

\*\*To subscribe to "The Daily Cup" email devotions, use the card on common ground tables, or e-mail [herb@hbcaustin.org](mailto:herb@hbcaustin.org).