

“What If No One Noticed?”

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Intro:

Doing acts of righteousness were assumed. Jesus names three acts in particular: the giving of alms, which was a specific kind of giving to and caring for the poor; also prayer, and also fasting.

- These three practices are pervasive throughout the Old Testament.

Warning: *Be careful – “Don’t give, or pray, or fast the way the hypocrites do.”*

In classical Greek, in Jesus' day, the word *hypocrite* simply meant actor.

Why? Why are the prophets and Jesus and God the Father so angry about this dynamic?

- *It isn't real*
- *It's contagious*
 - Is there a cure?

Let's call it *the discipline of secrecy*.

It's a transformational tool designed, *at a very practical level*, to help you know and keep tabs on your own heart, and your real motives.

Application: *Practice the discipline of secrecy... and notice how it effects you when no one notices.*