

**Recap:**

**\*Introduced “The Heart of the Matter” Series (Sermon on the Mount) (Matthew 5:1-2)**

**\* “The Great Contradiction (The Beatitudes) Parts 1 and 2 (Matthew 5:3-12)**

**\* “Being Salty and Shine” (Matthew 5:13-16)**

**\* “Become Greater” (Matthew 5:17-20)**

**\* “There’s Been a Murder” (Matthew 5:21-26)**

**\* “Honoring Your Vows” (Matthew 5:27-32)**

**\* “Honesty is the Best Policy” (Matthew 5:33-37)**

**\* “Radical Love” Part 1 (Matthew 5:38-42)**

**\* “Radical Love” Part 2 (Matthew 5:43-48)**

 **1. Only God can give you the surpassing righteousness**

 **2. Only God can help you love your enemies**

 **3. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**\*In a small college town, a tavern frequented by students ran the following ad on the campus bulletin board days before “Parents Weekend” “Bring Your Parents for Lunch Saturday. We’ll pretend we don’t know you!” The ad was soon challenged by the college chaplain, who posted a revised version on the campus bulletin board. It read: “Bring your parents to chapel Sunday. We’ll pretend we know you!**

**\*There is a lot of pretending in life isn’t there?**

**\*We have heroes that we almost worship only to find out that they were pretending to be someone they were not.**

**\*Hypocritical Righteousness vs. Authentic Righteousness (v. 1)**

**\*Today let’s look at what Authentic Righteousness looks like in our message “Being Discreet”**

**I. Giving in Secret (vv. 2-4)**

 **A. The Wrong Way to Give:**

 **\*To be honored by others (“with trumpets)**

 **-already received their reward.**

 **B. The right way to Give:**

 **\*In Secret (“left hand/right hand)**

 **-your father will reward you**

**II. Praying in Secret (vv. 5-8)**

 **A. The Wrong Way to Pray:**

 **\*To be seen by other people (synagogues and street corners”)**

 **-already received their reward**

 **\*Meaningless repetition (Babble like the Gentiles (pagans) do)**

 **-think their prayers will be answered merely by repeating their words**  **again and again.**

 **B. The right way to pray**

 **\*In Secret (“go away by yourself, shut the door”)**

 **-your father will reward you.**

 **\*Simple, direct petitions (The Lord’s Prayer vv. 9-13)**

 **-your father knows what you need before you ask him.**

**III. Fasting in Secret (vv. 16-18)**

**A. The wrong way to fast:**

**\*To show other people (miserable.... disheveled)**

**-already received their reward**

**B. The right way to fast**

**-In secret (comb your hair and wash your face)**

**-your father will reward you.**

**Conclusion:**

**\*John 12:23: For they loved human praised more than the praise of God**

**\*What are your motives?**

 **-To be praised by men or to be praised by our Heavenly Father**

**\*Remember what Jesus said earlier in this sermon**

 **-Matthew 5:20: But I warn you-unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of the religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

**\*My hope for me and for us as the church, all that we do is for the glory of God, and we will be motivated by our reward in heaven and not here by men.**

**\*Let’s be authentic, transparent and real with our righteousness and may it bring glory to God.**