

PURSUING JESUS

Today we are in our third and final week emphasizing our 21 day fast in anticipation of our prophetic meetings on the 21st and 22nd of this month.

Today I want to talk to you about ... Pursuing Jesus

Matthew 6:33 - Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you... (NKJV)

Q. What does it mean when we say seek first?

Q. what does it look like to God?

Matthew 6:1 – “**Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them**, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

Matthew 6:2 - ²“**So when you give** to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others... (ESV)

Matthew 6:5 – ⁵“**And when you pray**, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. (ESV)

Matthew 6:16 – ¹⁶“**When you fast**, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. (ESV)

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HEART

Matthew 6:2-3 – So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others...

But when you give, give so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

Matthew 6:5-6 – ⁵And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others.

⁶When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray... And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

Matthew 6:16-17 - ¹⁶When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting.... ¹⁷**When you fast**, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others... And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)

Luke 18:10-14 - Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: "I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! ¹²I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income." ¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, "O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner." ¹⁴I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (NLT)

TCC- It's all about the heart...

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (NKJV)

OUR HEART SPEAKS

Actions speak louder than words
Put your money where your mouth is
Talk is cheap

The heart speaks loud and clear by what we do?

²“So when you give... ⁵“And when you pray...¹⁶“When you fast... these things practice out of a pure heart

These three are the staples of the kingdom, they should be a regular part of the Christian life. SOP of the kingdom.

In other words: Christians give, Christians pray and Christians fast.

Giving: Declares to the Lord... you are my supply? I trust you!!

Prayer: Declares to the Lord... I depend on you!!

Fasting: Declares before the Lord you are more important to me than life itself

Matthew 6:1... how to “ practice your righteousness”...

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

Philippians 2:12-13 - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his purpose.” (NIV)

GOD NOTICES OUR PURSUIT

Acts 10:1-4 – “There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian regiment, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” ...⁴“Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. (NKJV)

Acts 2:5 – And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

So how important is fasting, how important is giving and prayer for us?...

TCC – Next week we are coming before the Lord and asking Him to speak to us prophetically... to trust us with His word... Can He trust us with the next revival?