

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (WEEK 10)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – MARCH 21, 2010

PASTOR JEFF – GIVING (MT. 6:1-4)

connect

1. What's your name? When you were growing up, do you remember doing anything to call attention to yourself? If so, what was it?
2. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

study

1. Who would people point to as an example of a generous person in our world today? Have you ever been on the receiving end of unselfish generosity? How did it affect you?
2. We've come to a new chapter in the Sermon on the Mount, and in Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus will discuss 3 key spiritual disciplines in our lives as His followers—giving, prayer & fasting. These spiritual disciplines are graces that build our relationship with God. Which one of these 3 would you like to grow in more this coming year? Why?
3. Chapter 5 ended with Jesus saying, "Be perfect," chapter 6 begins with Jesus saying, "Be careful." What danger is Jesus warning us about as we seek to live a righteous life?
4. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus says, "Let your light shine before men so they may see your good works..." But in Matthew 6:1 Jesus commands us not to do "our acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them." How do you resolve this apparent contradiction?
5. When we give, Jesus says, "Don't be like the hypocrites" or play actors. How can we in the church be hypocritical in our giving if we're not careful? Give an example.
6. Why do you think we "broadcast" our spiritual accomplishments? Why is "broadcasting" such a corruption of true generosity? Who does it violate and how?

7. How do you think we, as a church, are caring for our community in the right way?
What do we need to be careful about whenever we reach out to our city or world?
8. Jesus says the right way to give is in secret. He says, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing? In what practical ways can we give more quietly?
9. Of the 4 ways listed in practicing radical giving, which one was most helpful for you?
How can you put this into practice this week?
10. Jesus promises whether we give the wrong way or the right way there's still a reward.
What is the difference between these rewards? What are the Father's rewards like?
11. Why is security in our relationship with our heavenly Father such a giving motivator?
12. Here's a check up as we finish the first 10 weeks of the Sermon on the Mount. As you look at these, choose one you'd give yourself a "thumbs-up" and one you'd give yourself a "thumbs-down." What are they? And why?

- 👉 📖 Being poor in spirit/spiritually bankrupt (5:3)
- 👉 📖 Being mournful & broken over our sinfulness (5:4)
- 👉 📖 Being meek/humble (5:5)
- 👉 📖 Being hungry and thirsty for righteousness (5:6)
- 👉 📖 Being merciful to others (5:7)
- 👉 📖 Being pure in heart (5:8)
- 👉 📖 Being a peacemaker (5:9)
- 👉 📖 Being willing to be persecuted for your faith (5:10-12)
- 👉 📖 Being salt and light (5:13-16)
- 👉 📖 Being transformed from the inside out/concerned with the condition of your heart (Jesus used the examples of anger, lust/adultery, divorce, loving enemies) – (5:17-42)
- 👉 📖 Being generous (6:1-4)

pray

1. Pray that we would be men and women who are more concerned with our Father in heaven being center of attention instead of ourselves.
2. Prayer requests – how can you pray for each other this week?