

Why is one's motivation for righteous living (*doing good*) important? Explain.

Read **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18** and discuss the following.

List the words and phrases that are most repeated in this passage. How does their repetition help us better understand Jesus' overall message?

What is a hypocrite? Describe a time when you have been guilty of hypocrisy.

What is the primary error of the hypocrite, and how are we called to live differently?

According to this passage what is the hypocrite's reward? What is the reward of the true disciple?

How are Christ's disciples supposed to give to the needy? How should we pray? What should we do while fasting?

Jesus seems to have the expectation that we will be generous toward those in need (**v. 2-3**), that we will pray (**v.5-6**), as well as fast (**v.16-17**). Which of these three comes most easily for you? Which is most difficult?

What does it mean to give in such a way that one hand does not know what the other is doing?

Do Jesus' words in **v.6** prohibit public prayer? Why or why not?

Have you ever fasted? If so, what did you fast from and why? Why might one choose to fast? What is the spiritual purpose of fasting?

What does this passage of Scripture teach us about God? What can we learn from it concerning ourselves?

What about this passage has most comforted and/or convicted you personally?