



Growing a Heart for God

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-18

Sermon Points:

1. You access and acquire God's heart when you give. (v1-4)
2. You access and acquire God's heart when you pray. (v5-15).
3. You access and acquire God's heart when you fast. (v16-18)

Group Opener:

The word hypocrite means "mask wearer." What was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid?

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus emphasized the importance of the heart because if God has our hearts, He has the rest of us, too. Why should we be wary of our culture's adage to "follow your heart?" Discuss a time when you did that and it went poorly.
2. Jesus re-emphasized forgiveness as being critical in our relationship with God. Read Matt 6:14-15 and ask God to show you whom you need to forgive.
3. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus assumed that his audience was giving, praying, and fasting. Of those three disciplines, which are you open to developing? What obstacles interfere with you participating in these practices? What is your next step in that area?
4. Spend the last moment in your group discussion reciting the Lord's Prayer aloud together (Matthew 6:5-14 ESV):
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."