

# COUNTER CULTURE

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



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# The Secret of True Righteousness

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18



## Matthew 6:1

<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Matthew 6:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

## Matthew 6:5–6

<sup>5</sup> And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

## Matthew 6:16–18

<sup>16</sup> And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

<sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

## 1. Recognize the danger of dead goodness (6:1)

<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.





## 2. Search below the surface of superficial virtue (6:2,5,16)

<sup>2</sup> Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.

<sup>5</sup> And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.

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- 8) Hypocrites act spiritual while destroying people's lives (23:27–28).
- 9) Hypocrites are blind to their own hard-hearted lostness (23:29–30).

### 3. Weigh the hollow reward of human applause (6:2,5,16)

<sup>2</sup> Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

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## Proverbs 22:1

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.



## 4. Discover the secret treasure of God's reward

(6:3-4, 6, 17-18)

<sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

## 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

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