

Be gone... Old Self

Week Two – Am I really me?

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world – like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” – Mt. 5:13-16

“Don’t do your good deeds publicly to be admired, because then you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 6:1

Jesus cares more about my inner deeds than my outer deeds:

1. _____.

“When you give a gift to someone in need, don’t shout about it as the hypocrites do – blowing trumpets in the synagogues and the streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I assure you, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone, don’t tell your left hand what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in secret, and your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.” – Matthew 6:2-4

2. _____.

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. And your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.” – Matthew 6:5-6

3. _____.

“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, who try to look pale and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I assure you, that this is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will suspect you’re fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in secret. And your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you.” – Matthew 6:16-18

Who is my audience?

Destructive Cycle: When I forget how much God cares about me, I begin caring about what other people think about me.

Destructive Cycle: When I begin caring about what other people think about me, I begin performing for those people and acting different and putting on a mask, a disguise and I'm no longer myself.

“And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you?” – Matthew 6:30

Can I be an authentic follower of Jesus?

Do I want to be real or do I want to play the part?

Do I want to be real or do I want to be religious?

“Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as ‘Lord,’ but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven. On judgment day many will tell me, ‘Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.” – Matthew 7:21-23

Desire and decision go hand in hand.

“Don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.” – Matthew 6:31-33

“After Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught as one who had real authority – quite unlike the teachers of religious law.” – Matthew 7:28

Reflect: How will you apply this teaching? What really stood out to you in this message?
