

Sermon Discussion Guide
Summer on the Mount – Week 4
The Secret Christian Life
August 1, 2021



Big Idea

When you give, pray, and fast in secret, the Father will reward you.



Icebreaker

Do you have any secret talents or hobbies that most people don't know about?



Discussion Questions

1. Read **Matthew 6:1-4**. Have you ever received an anonymous gift? What did it make you think about the giver's intentions? How does that apply to this passage?
2. What is your attitude when giving tithes and offering? How does one become a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)?
3. Read **Matthew 6:5-8**. During the sermon, we heard that some public praying is called for. How do we discern when this verse applies? What has your experience been with public prayer?
4. What does your private prayer life look like? Is there a time of the day specifically set aside for time with God? If not, when is a good time you could schedule that?
5. Read **Matthew 6:16-18**. Have you ever fasted? If so, what has fasting done for your relationship with God? Why are we called to fast?



Concluding Questions

Read **John 12:42-43**. Jesus' words on all three of these acts (giving, prayer, and fasting) revolve around our motivation behind them. Does taking the right actions with the wrong attitude make those actions wrong? How do we make our actions and heart align?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Possible prayer topics for this week:

- Giving with a joyful heart
- Intentional prayer time with God
- The right attitude behind action
- Pleasing God above others