COMMUNITY GUIDE

Kingdom Come // The Secret Life (Matthew 6:1-18)

OVERVIEW

In this teaching, Pastor Jordan walks through Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6 on giving, praying, and fasting. Three core practices of faith. The central tension Jesus identifies is not between doing good and doing nothing, but between doing good for God's reward and doing good for the applause of others. Jesus invites us into a secret life. One where the Father who sees what is done in secret becomes our greatest audience and our deepest reward.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The temptation is not wanting to be good. It is wanting to be seen as good.
- Whoever you look to for reward is ultimately who writes the script of your life.
- Jesus is not against being seen. He is against living to be seen.
- Our motives are a quick check on the condition of our hearts.
- The Father's delight is the reward. It is not a payroll system -- it is a relationship.
- You cannot purify your own motives, but you can invite the Holy Spirit to do that work in you.
- Show when tempted to hide. Hide when tempted to show.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Pastor Jordan drew a distinction between wanting to be good and wanting to be seen as good. How would you describe the difference in your own words? Where do you notice that line blurring in your own life?
- Jesus calls the hypocrites out not for giving, praying, or fasting but for doing those things to be seen. What does it tell us about Jesus that he targets the motive rather than the behavior?
- Pastor Jordan said, "Even our 'I'm not wearing a mask' can sort of be a mask, because we know that people will be like, how brave you are." How do you discern whether vulnerability is genuine or whether it has been edited to still make you look good?
- Pastor Jordan offered three practical steps: check your heart before acting, hand your motives over to God in prayer, and keep going without becoming paralyzed by impure motives. Which of those three do you most need to lean into this week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pastor Jordan invited the congregation to pray this at the close of the sermon. Consider praying it together as a group, or silently on your own before closing:

Search me, God, and know my heart. Purify my motives.

This is drawn from Psalm 139. You may want to read that psalm together as a group before or after your discussion.