



**February 5, 2023**

**Formed - Secret**

Summary – Motives mold us and the practice of secrecy can refine our motives and prevent us from becoming modern Pharisees who only care about appearing whitewashed. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount refines the practices of giving, praying, and fasting toward secrecy to prevent the destructiveness of only outward conformity.

Scripture – Matthew 6:1-18, 9:14-17; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30, Acts 13:2; Isaiah 58:6; Ephesians 3:17, 19

### **Community Group Questions:**

(There is no obligation to discuss every question/quotation)

#### **Introduction**

1. **All three disciplines, if done in secret, are rewarded by the Father. Why does God place such a high value on “secrecy” in the spiritual disciplines of giving, prayer and fasting?**

#### **Giving (Matthew 6:1-5)**

1. **What is the difference between freely giving and buying influence or a result?**
2. **“70% of giving in America is done by Christians.” Discuss**
3. **“Christians are supposed to give and then pray for amnesia.” Discuss**

#### **Prayer (Matthew 6:5-16)**

1. **“Your prayer life should be like an iceberg.” Discuss**
2. **What’s the value of a “simple” prayer life?**

#### **Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)**

1. **“Abstinence is the avenue to abundance.” Discuss**
2. **“It’s all about the bridegroom.” Discuss**

#### **Challenges**

1. **Pray one Psalm this week.**
2. **Fast one day this week.**
3. **Secretly give to one person this week.**