



Firm Foundations

Following the way of Jesus

Seeking the Right Recognition

Date: Sunday 18th July

Speaker: Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: Matthew 6:1-8

Talk Summary:

- In our passage today Jesus is asking the uncomfortable question, whose approval are you living for? Whose recognition are you seeking?
- Each of the three sections have a similar structure so you could summarise our passage like this:
 - *When you do something good, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you do something good, do it in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*
- Darrell Johnson, says that in this passage Jesus reveals 3 truths about life:
 1. We are all actors in a great drama – the invitation is to find our role in God’s drama, rather than playing at being someone we aren’t.
 2. We are always performing before a live audience – Which audience are you going to perform for, God or others?
 3. We will get the reward we seek – Who’s recognition are you seeking?
- Application: I want to live for God’s recognition. What do I do?
 - In the passage Jesus’ practical solution is to practice doing good things in secret. So, this next week do something good, kind, generous, and don’t tell anyone. – Reflect on the experience with God and see what you learn about yourself and God – and make a habit of this.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

1. Was there anything in this talk (or passage) that you found challenging or that stood out to you?
2. How do you feel about the idea that God is always watching?
3. Are there any other ways that you can think of to increase your awareness of God's recognition of you and reduce your desire for the recognition of others?

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invite to?