

It's Deeper Than That – Week 1 Small Group Questions

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

1. Pastor Jeff confessed that after secretly deep cleaning the kitchen, he couldn't help but "discover" it out loud so his wife would notice. What's something you've done for someone where, if you're honest, a little part of you wanted the credit?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Matthew 6:1-4

1. Read Matthew 6:1–4. Jesus doesn't say "don't do good deeds publicly" — He says don't do them "to be admired by others." What's the difference between those two things, and why does it matter so much to Jesus?
2. Read Matthew 5:14–16 right alongside Matthew 6:1. Jesus says let your good deeds "shine out for all to see" — so how do these two teachings fit together instead of contradicting each other?
3. Read Colossians 3:23 and Galatians 1:10 together. What do these verses say about whose approval should actually matter to you — at work, at home, or in serving?
4. After Jeff lost his ordination, his grandpa told him: "*Jeff, the denomination didn't ordain you, GOD ordained you and that cannot be taken away!*" What's a title, position, or approval you've wanted from people that was really God's to give all along?
5. Read Matthew 6:3–4. What does giving "in secret" look like in practice, and why do you think Jesus ties secrecy so directly to the Father's reward?
6. Dallas Willard said transformed people are the kind "whose left hand would not notice what their right hand is doing... they hardly notice their own deed, and rarely remember it." What would it look like for your generosity to become that natural and unremembered?

Practice

This week, do one act of kindness or service and tell absolutely no one — not even your spouse or closest friend. Pay attention to how badly you want to mention it.