

Oct. 18

NEXT STEPS



Surprise The World

"Secret Agents"

Matthew 6:1-18

Questions to ***Dig Deeper***:

1. The word hypocrite comes from ancient Greek theater, referring to actors wearing masks to perform a role. In what ways are Christians today tempted to wear a "spiritual mask" in a culture driven by likes, shares, and public visibility?

2. In Matthew 5, Jesus tells us to let our light shine, so others see our good works and praise God, but in Matthew 6, He warns against practicing righteousness to be seen by people. How do we balance being an authentic public witness for Christ without crossing into performing for human applause?

3. It is easy to pray or act differently around a small group or at church than we do in private. When you evaluate your own habits of prayer or giving, what subtle motives (e.g., seeking approval, wanting validation, or avoiding awkwardness) do you notice creeping in?

4. There is a distinction between healthy feedback (like the 5:1 positivity ratio in relationships) and fishing for compliments (like the worship team member example Bill gave). How can our church community offer genuine encouragement to one another without feeding ego or spiritual pride?

5. What is one spiritual habit (prayer, generosity, fasting, or serving) you want to practice more intentionally this month until it becomes second nature? What intentional steps do you need to take to help make it a habit grounded in good intentions?