

THE KINGDOM DRIVEN LIFE #13
The Book of Matthew

The Secret Faith

I. Introduction

A. The Joy of Being a New dad—I met a girl on Dec. 6 & fell in love!
(Pictures of Haddie-Rose)

1. The God of the Universe looks upon us and cares for us as a father!
 - He cares about our needs being met! Do you believe that?
 - Most of all, He cares about our heart! He wants to pour His heart into our own.
2. This revolutionary concept that Jesus brought (*God the Father*)—**really bothered mainstream religion**—referred to the Almighty God as a father!

B. The Secret Faith in Matthew 6

1. When we *seek the heart* of the King,
2. We will be *driven to Kingdom action*, and
3. We will *receive the King's reward*.

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6

II. Pray- The Heart is Most Important

A. Seek the heart of the King!

1. Pastor Ray's message last week—"Love without Hooks"

- a. Loving our enemies is the ultimate expression of a Kingdom-Driven life.
 - b. Only a heart that's miraculously acted upon by a GREATER KINGDOM can do that.
 - c. Our heart is the essential thing that matters to God
 - d. When we seek His heart, He unfolds the Kingdom right before our eyes!
 - e. This whole Sermon on the Mount is about the heart. It's spoken to religious fakers!
2. Christianity is the only inside-out faith! What's on the inside will come out!

**Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
Matthew 12:34**

**Man looks at the outside appearance; God looks at the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7**

**Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.
Proverbs 4:23**

God wants to perfect and complete our hearts!

**You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Matthew 5:48**

3. What's the problem with the world today? (Gov./abortion/rape/genocide/slavery?)
- a. What would cause such atrocities? OUR hearts!
 - b. What's the solution? The Kingdom in your heart!
4. A Kingdom driven life can only be fueled by a Kingdom driven heart.
- a. Verse 6—"Go into your room, shut the door."
 - b. HE WANTS OUR HEART!

III. When We Seek the Heart of the King, We Will Be Driven to Kingdom Action

A. Kingdom action! What we DO matters.

1. *Does Christianity consist of Faith or Religious Deeds? Yes!*
- a. The faith in our hearts is most important, but true faith will drive us to action.

**" . . . I will show you my faith by my works."
James 2:18**
 - b. Don't swing the pendulum from legalism and leave out ACTION.
 - c. Heart motive **AND** action are important! They're not mutually exclusive!
(Should I love my wife or serve her? Love her or remain faithful to her?)

2. Yes, we must distinguish between the root and the fruit. But the fruit is important too!

B. Verse 3—“When you GIVE . . .”

1. We need to “Get ‘er dun!” That’s precisely why we must seek His heart, because we’ll do nothing otherwise.

- Someone will feed the poor!
- Are we going to wait on non-profits or Washington to do what Jesus already called us to do?

2. Larry Stewart Story-A Kansas City Businessman with an Amazing Legacy

Two years in a row, he was fired right before Christmas ('78 & '79). Just after being fired in 1979, when he was hungry and down on his luck, he was given a free dinner, allegedly inspiring Stewart's personal tradition that lasted almost 30 years.

Around Christmas of 1979, while nursing his wounds at a drive-in restaurant during a very cold day, he noticed a carhop (roller-skate waitress) working the cars outside. He recalled, “It was cold and this car hop didn’t have on a very big jacket, and I thought to myself, ‘I think I got it bad. She’s out there in this cold making nickels and dimes,. He gave her \$20 and told her to keep the change. And suddenly I saw her lips begin to tremble and tears begin to flow down her cheeks. She said, ‘Sir, you have no idea what this means to me.’

In years following, he continued his tradition—random acts of kindness—secret giving!

- God prospered him exceedingly (telecommunications)
- Began dressing like Santa Clause—handing out \$100 bills
- Gave away over \$1.3 million
- Appeared on the Oprah show in disguise
- Revealed his identity in 2006 on his deathbed—to recruit others.
- Cities across the nation followed suit—celebrated Stewart’s legacy
- *Santa’s Secret*—book written about Stewart’s life
- Crying Woman—Last year two secret Santas in Kansas City helped a displaced mom and her family, who despite their dire circumstances were also taking care of two homeless teenagers.

3. I hope you’re inspired to seek God’s heart for your own legacy that honors him and blesses others! (*and you’re not more concerned that I mentioned Santa!*)

IV. When We Seek the Heart of the King, We Will Be Driven to Kingdom Action and RECEIVE THE KING'S REWARD.

A. The Provider of the reward is most essential!

1. All we are discussing today hinges on our interaction with the Father!
 - a. We seek HIS heart, then DO, and **then** receive His reward.
 - b. Verse 6 doesn't say, "you'll be rewarded," it says HE WILL REWARD!

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matt 6:6

B. What is the Reward?

1. Himself! Intimacy in relationship with our Father, the King! The Secret Faith is the secret place of intimacy with the Father!
2. "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (v. 8)
 - "He knows what we *WANT* before we ask him?"
 - No- **NEED!** We need *Him*. We need to know HIM! We need to seek him and thus be LIKE HIM! Give like Him; pray like Him!
3. The point is *NOT* that:
 - a. We're supposed to do good stuff and hide-
 - b. We should not seek to be seen-

Let your light shine before others!

Matt 5

- c. We should not seek a reward.
4. The point is, "Who do we want to be seen by?" "Whose reward are we seeking?" *THE KING?*
5. Current financial situation in U.S.-
 - a. Even in a time like this, we can be enriched by the greatest REWARD!
 - b. No doubt—things are bad and could get worse! Are we worried sick about lack?

He knows what we need!!!
 - c. When we were at the pinnacle of our prosperity, were we worried sick about greed?
 - God saves us from lack **and also from greed!**
 - 1. Tithes and offerings (it's not our money)
 2. Giving to the needy—lavish, creative, extravagant giving! Like the Father gives!

- When we give sacrificially, the world sees that our treasure—our REAL reward--is our King, our Father in Heaven!

**I've never met anyone who's ruined their life by giving too much.
John Piper**

V. Practical Steps

- Mobil Loaves and Fishes—you won't be recognized before the church
- Start your own legacy!
- Pray for Kingdom Hearts, Action, and Reward!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever done anything special for someone and kept it a secret? Has anyone ever anonymously blessed you?
2. What's the greatest gift you've ever received? Was the value of the gift dependent on who gave it?
3. If money was not a factor, what would be the greatest way that you personally could bless others?