



# VPSmall Group Discussion Guide: Pastor Tom

Key Scripture: Matthew 6:1-18 [Why is more important than what.](#)

## Main Takeaways

1. In Matthew 6:1, what does Jesus specifically warn against? What's the difference between "being seen" and "doing it to be seen"?
2. How do Matthew 5:16 and Matthew 6:1 work together (not contradict)?
3. The message says: "**Why you do something is more important than what you do.**" Do you agree? Why or why not?

## Discussion Questions

1. The word "hypocrite" is connected to "actor." Where do you feel pressure to perform spiritually—or appear "good"?
2. What's a modern-day version of "sounding a trumpet" (letting everyone know you did the good thing)?
3. Have you ever felt disappointed when your generosity/service wasn't noticed or thanked? What did that reveal?
4. Why do you think we crave credit so much? (Approval, insecurity, control, comparison, fear, etc.)
5. What's the "reward" of applause? What's the "reward" of the Father? How have you experienced either one?

Which one is most relevant to you?

1. **Hospitality:** When can hosting become more about image than love?
2. **Serving:** How can serving at church, work, or in the community drift into "look at me"?
3. **Prayer:** Where can prayer become performative (even subtly—tone, words, "spiritual vibe")?
4. **Fasting / spiritual disciplines:** When have you done something hard and wanted people to know? Why?

## Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 to put into practice this week:

1. **Secret Good:** Do one intentional act of generosity/service that nobody will know about.
2. **No-Notification:** Do something good and don't post it, mention it, or hint at it.
3. **Pray First (3 minutes):** Before checking your phone in the morning, pray: "Jesus, live through me today. Purify my motives. Let my life point to You."
4. **Credit Release:** If someone doesn't notice or thank you—practice saying: "Father, You see. That's enough."