**Life Lessons from Jesus**

**“Get Personal with God”**

**Bill Balbach, Lead Pastor July 31, 2022**

**The top three things that every person wants:**

1. **To be loved.**
2. **To be valued.**
3. **To be happy.**

**We pursue rewards to obtain a sense of security.**

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12 (New International)

**The two reward program pathways: earthly rewards or heavenly rewards.**

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“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no ***reward*** from your Father in heaven.” Matthew 6:1 (New International)

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**Pursuing righteousness is not just about what we do, but the heart behind why we do what we do.**

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“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their ***reward*** in full. 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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will ***reward*** you.” Matthew 6:2-4 (New International)

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their ***reward*** in full.” Matthew 6:5 (New International)

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their ***reward*** in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will ***reward*** you.” Matthew 6:16-18 (New International)

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**Devoting to God’s Kingdom is a radical transformation of our values and priorities.**

““Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”” Matthew 6:19-23 (New International)

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**What we pursue provides a window to the true nature of our hearts.**

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