

Series: KINGDOM CULTURE

Title: Secret Service

Speaker: Bob Marvel

Date: November 14-15, 2020

Please spend time praying for people to be safe and for those with Covid to heal and recover completely. Pray too for our local, state and national leaders asking God to give them wisdom in all their decisions.

1. Read Matthew 6:1-18 and 23:5-7. Who were professional hypocrites in the Roman Empire and according to Jesus, who were they in Israel? From these passages, how do you recognize one? What's at the root of hypocrisy?
2. How do we reconcile the apparent contradiction between what Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:1 about not being seen when we do good deeds, with 5:16 where he asks us to let our light shine before men? Is it a contradiction? How do we know the right way to show good deeds?
3. Give everyone the chance to honestly reflect and talk about how badly they've been infected with the "disease to please". Anyone in the group immune from it?
4. What's the "vaccine" for it? Hint: it's the name of group of people who protect the President. How does Jesus tell us to keep the disease under control? Can you give some examples of how to practice the discipline of secrecy?
5. What comes to mind when you hear Jesus say over and over again, "your Father, who sees in secret"?
6. This passage describes three "devotions": giving, prayer, and fasting that Jesus calls his followers to practice. Did you grow up in a home where you learned these devotions? Which of the three is the hardest and why is that? Can you give a thumbs up to everyone that you'll try each one this week? That's not showing up, it's owning up.

Quote from the message: "Secrecy, rightly practiced, enables us to place our public relations department entirely in the hands of God who lit our candle so we could be the light of the world."

- Dallas Willard

