# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

February 23 & 24 '08

**"Reboot" Series**

When its time to adjust the "default" settings...

This Week's Message: **Swelled Egos and Shriveled Souls**

Pastor Jeff McNairn

*Matthew 6:1-18*

One of the greatest preachers of the 20th century was a man by the name of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones. He has written volumes on the Sermon on the Mount and he said that the 6th chapter of Matthew is both a very searching and painful section of Scripture. *"I think,"* said Jones, *"that this chapter is one of the most uncomfortable chapters to read in the entire Scriptures."* Why is this so? What is it about these few verses that are so challenging for us today? The answer to this lies in the fact that these verses have the potential to open up our heart and reveal to us our true inner motivations. It holds a mirror up before us and it will not allow us to escape.

Do you have questions about Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount? Send them to sermonquestions@willowparkchurch.com and then listen to future messages for the answers!

# SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

## Open It

- What part of the Sermon on the Mount has meant the most to you so far?
- How is the Sermon on the Mount a blueprint for living today?
- What are some of the crazy things we do in order to be liked or noticed by others?
- Is it wrong to want to be noticed?

## Dig into it

Read Matthew 6:1-18

- Do you think 'doing things to be seen by people' is a temptation that many of us face?
- Do you think people actually want to be noticed for their giving? If yes, what kind of recognition are they looking for?
- What are some of our motives for wanting to give?
- Is it wrong for others to call attention to our giving, as long as we don't call attention to it ourselves? (for example - plaques on hospital walls that say 'Joe Smith gave $1,500)
- Jesus warned us against displaying our piety in public – how might we do that today?
- Why is it so important for things like our giving, praying, and fasting to be a private affair?
- Why is Jesus so concerned about our motives? What makes the motive more important than the act?

Read Matthew 5:14-16 and Matthew 6:1

- Is there a contradiction here? How do you balance these two passages?

Read Matthew 6:2

- What does Jesus mean when he says "we have received our reward in full" when we do our acts of righteousness to be seen by others?
- What does Jesus mean when he says that we should not let our left hand know what our right hand is doing?

## Rewards

- Is it ok to do acts of righteousness in order to receive rewards or should we want to do good for that alone?

"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Read Matthew 5.12, Matthew 10.42, Matthew 25.14-30

- What did Jesus have to say about rewards?
- What do you think of this statement – "Any action which achieves nothing is futile and meaningless. A goodness which achieves no end would be a meaningless goodness."
- Comment on this statement from theologian William Barclay – "To eliminate all rewards and punishments is really to say that in God there is neither justice nor love."

## Apply It

- Are there any areas in your life where you are living for the notice of others?

Take some time this week to do a little motive check inventory in your life. Is your giving, your praying, or your deeds of piety done for yourself, for others, or for God?

**THANK YOU** church family for all the prayers, hugs, emails and comforting words we received during Merle's illness and passing.
Love Annabel Smith and family