



Devotion Info

What Tough Times Teach Us

DAY 1 Read Matt 6:1-6

[1] "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. [2] When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. [3] But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. [4] Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

[5] "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. [6] But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

James 1:2-3 NLT

- Describe a moment when the applause of people made you feel like you were on top of the world.
- Can you see why God is asking you to seek his applause versus the applause of people?

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James 1:2-3 NLT

- How often do you find yourself rehearsing a prayer before you pray it?
- How do we stay focused in prayer before the Lord when we pray in public?

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DAY 3 Read Matthew 6:16

[16] "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get.

Matthew 6:16 NLT

- What does fasting mean to you?
- Why don't we practice this spiritual discipline more often?

DAY 4 Read Matthew 6:1

[1] "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6:1 NLT

- We all like to fit in. Recall a moment when you became an actor to be noticed by others. Did it feel hypocritical?

DAY 5 Read Matthew 5:16, Matthew 6:6,17-18

[16] In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16 NLT

[6] But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Matthew 6:6 NLT

[17] But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. [18] Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Matthew 6:17-18 NLT

- Take time to reconcile Matthew 5:16 with Matthew 6:6, 17-18. Can you describe any tension you find in that contrast?

If you would like a daily reminder of these devotionals for each week's sermon, text "DEVO" to 512-877-5131 and you'll receive a text message after 8am Monday-Friday with a link to that day's devotional.