

“Upstream - The Sermon on the Mount”

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Be Different

- Different characteristics
- Different perspective on the law
- Different perspective on righteousness (day to day morality)

Religious Righteousness (Matthew 6:1-18)

Matthew 6:1 *The Starting Point*

Two issues:

- Issue #1 - Check your _____
- Issue #2 - A strong warning

Common Word #1 - “WHEN” (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16)

When you:

- _____
- _____
- _____

The core issue is not participating in religious activities, per se, but the motive prompting the behavior.

Common Words #2 - “DO NOT” (Matthew 6:2, 5, 7, 16)

When you participate, do not be _____
_____ to yourself in any way.

Common Words #3 - “I TELL YOU THE TRUTH” and “RECEIVED THEIR REWARD IN FULL” (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16)

- “I tell you the truth.”
- This is it?
- Despair versus _____

Common Words #4 - “BUT WHEN YOU” (Matthew 6:3, 6, 17)

- “When” again
- Same action, different _____
- Others might benefit but these transactions are between us and God
- We don’t even _____ ourselves
- Prayer (two warnings)

Common Words #5 - “FATHER WHO SEES WHAT IS DONE IN SECRET WILL REWARD YOU” (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18)

Six key words

- “ _____ , _____
_____ ”.
- God knows and that will be enough.

Who Gets the Glory?

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

What is your main "take-away" from this week? How do you plan to live that out?

Would it impact your giving if there were no "tax breaks" associated with giving? Would it impact your giving if there was no benefit to you? (Note: Jesus was talking about giving during a time that there were no tax breaks or related benefits.)

C.S. Lewis commented that we don't really give until we give up something that we could have had if we hadn't given. What is your initial reaction to this comment? Do you agree with that? Do you find it disturbing?

What are some of the things besides money that we are called on to give? Which is easier to give - money or time? Do we give money at times simply because it is easier?

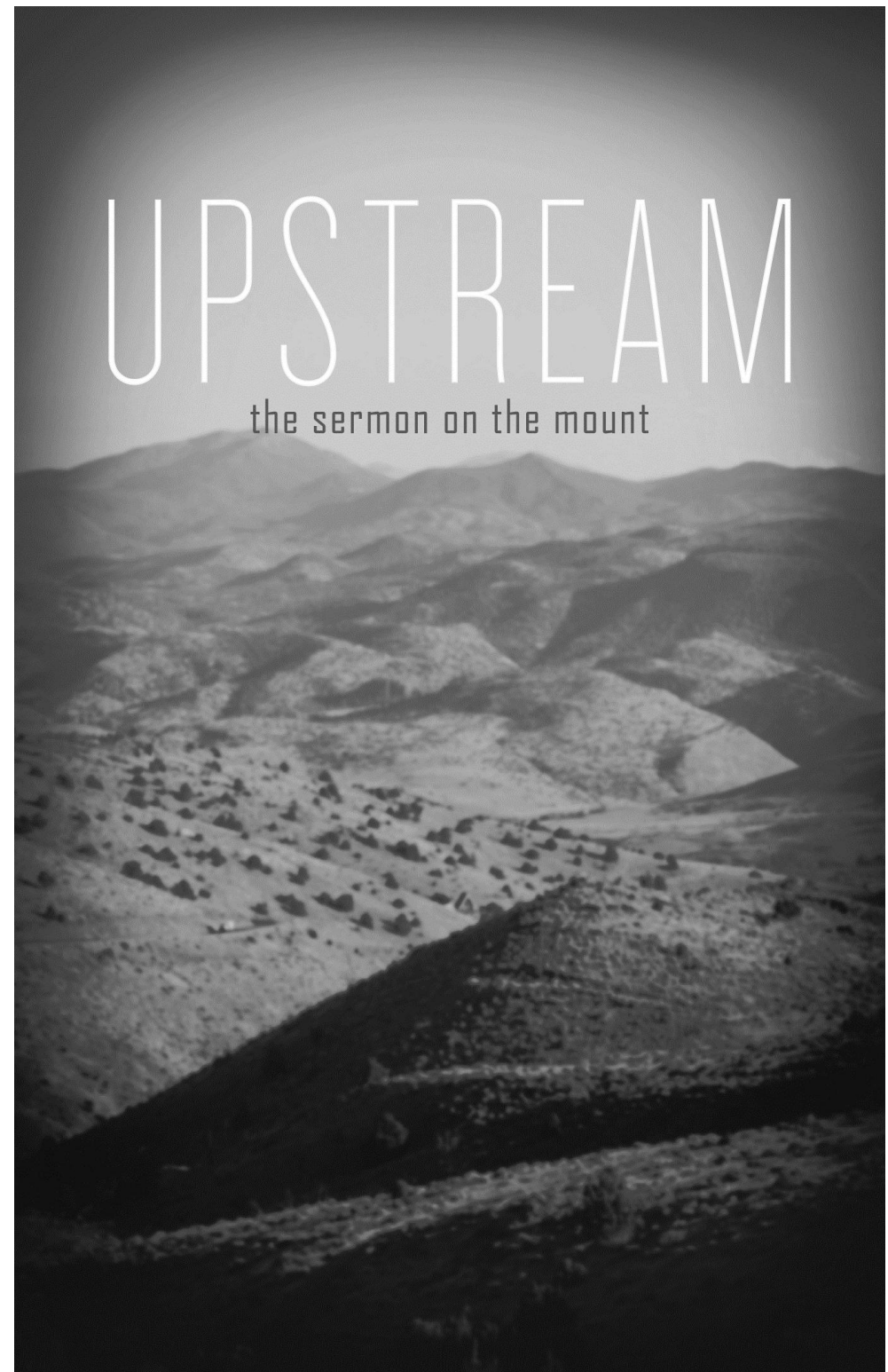
Do we pray simply to know God better or is it more about us needing something from Him? How many people know that we pray? Are we ever tempted to tell people "more than they need to know" about our prayer lives?

What do think about fasting? What changes it from being simply "skipping a meal" to becoming an expression of worship? What would be some of the reasons for developing this expression?

Read over the various scriptures presented in this week's sermon and think about what God might be teaching you. (Note: these might be different than what was presented in the sermon.)

Review Question #1: What has been the main hindrance to your being different from the world around you?

Review Question #2: What has been the main hindrance to your making a difference in the world?



UPSTREAM

the sermon on the mount