

# Fully Alive - experiencing the Good Life according to Jesus

study #7

## Reflecting on Sunday's Teaching :: "The Audience of One"

As we think back to Sunday's teaching, what stands out for you?

- *Was there something that hit home, challenged, or encouraged you?*
- *What questions are you left with and what are you doing with them?*
- *Is Jesus realistic about real humans living among real neighbours in a community?*

## Read the Text :: Matthew 6: 1-18

*If possible, read the text aloud from a few different translations – and take note of the differences and how they help you hear Jesus from a new perspective. (And since this is a well-known passage, perhaps read it slowly and reflectively so that you can hear his words in a new way).*

## Digging In ::

- Share together how you've often responded to Jesus' command – "*Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others.*" How did Daniel's teaching help you or speak into this?
- What portion of Jesus' teaching here feels most pertinent for YOU and for Lambrick's congregation these days – giving to the needy, praying, fasting? Which of these three subjects seems to be 'off your radar'? Any others that you think might be added?
  - Why is 'not practicing righteousness in front of others' so unnatural for us?
- Since 'hypocrite' literally means 'stage actor', what are the underlying assumptions (about God and ourselves), preparations (physical and emotional disciplines) and actions (the performance itself) that foster a well-honed 'hypocritical performance'. In practical terms, how does Jesus foster ANOTHER way of life?
  - Does Jesus teach a simpler OR more difficult life path for you in your real world? (Be honest)
- Why does Jesus emphasize 'your Father' (count how many times in 18 verses) and not other biblical titles for God (eg. Judge, Rescuer, Guide) and why his clear emphasis on 'YOUR Father'?

## Prayer ::

- Alone and in your own 'quiet space', what is God teaching you about himself, about yourself and what that one-on-one relationship might look like, especially about giving to the needy, praying, fasting?
- As a group (family, small group, congregation), what might God be teaching us about expectations from others? And what might he be teaching us about our family/group/congregational life?
- Invite, describe and share your personal 'occasions for unexpected joy' as you discover renewed relationship with your Abba Father.
- Ask God to help you find personal and practical ways to celebrate your freedom in Jesus.

Ah dear ones, privately and together,  
let us learn from and celebrate with our rescuing brother Jesus. ☺