

**The Kingdom and Its Ethic, Part 4**  
**Be Careful How You Live Out Your Righteousness**  
**Matthew 6:1-18**

- I. The Danger of Righteousness that Is Only External (1)
  - A. NOTE: People will see your righteousness (cf. 5:16)
  - B. So, what is going on here?
    - 1. Why do they see your righteousness?
    - 2. Are we seeking the praise of others?
    - 3. Are we seeking to lord our righteousness over others at a later time?
- II. Three Examples of Improper External Righteousness (2-18)
  - A. Each of these examples demonstrates dependence on God
  - B. The examples
    - 1. Giving to the poor – depending on God to take what I have to give and using it to help those can't help themselves
    - 2. Prayer – depending on God to transform my heart, meet my spiritual and physical needs, and to recognize my daily need of His care
    - 3. Fasting – depending on God to transform my perspective as I prepare for a season of deep confession or preparation for intense spiritual struggle
  - C. When these things are done to make much of self, they become completely turned upside down: they are changed from an act of

dependence on God to an act of independence from Him

- III. We Must Be Careful of Our Acts of Righteousness
  - A. We will let our light shine
  - B. We must make sure it is shining on the Lord, not us
  - C. We must make sure that we don't idolize ourselves through our righteousness; it is a gracious gift from God in Christ – we receive it and act on it in humility