

# Children's Ministry

THIRD  
FOURTH

February 14<sup>th</sup> || Matthew 6:1-23

Main Point: **Want to please Jesus more than pleasing people.**

(Try to repeat the main point several times.)

Read Matthew 6:1-23 and ask:

1. How did the Pharisees abuse giving to the poor?
2. How did the Pharisees abuse prayer?
3. How did the Pharisees abuse fasting?
4. What should our goal be in all these things?

Digging Deeper: John 12:36-43

1. Why wouldn't the people believe in Jesus?
2. Why was Isaiah willing to speak?
3. What would happen if people confessed Jesus?
4. What did the men love more than God's approval?

Driving it

home...



"Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" —Philippians 2:8

We cannot perfectly please God because of our sin. However, Jesus perfectly pleased God in everything that He did. So, if we want God to be pleased with us and reward us, we have to depend on Jesus. We cannot earn God's happiness, but Jesus did, and He offers it to us as well. Only by trusting in Jesus can any of our actions be pleasing to God!

Not all of the rulers of Israel hated Jesus. Some of the rulers believed in Jesus, but you'd never know it. They were afraid to let other people know because they didn't want other people to dislike them. They really cared about what other people thought, even more than what Jesus would think.

## Who Do You Want To Please?

Have the kids sit on one end of the room. Then, stand opposite another leader. Choose one child and tell them they must choose which leader he/she will walk to. As the child walks toward a leader, have that leader clap and cheer. Why did they choose the leader? Now, tell all the kids in the room to cheer for one specific leader. Then have the child choose which leader he/she will walk to (with the kids cheering if the student picks the one leader). Why did they choose that leader? Lastly, hold out a box of "Goldfish." (Have the leader holding the goldfish be different than the leader the kids are supposed to cheer for.) Let the child decide which leader to walk to. Why would they choose the one with the goldfish? (Pass out goldfish to all the students)

We can choose to please Jesus or to please people, but only God can reward us eternally. But who we live to please will be who we receive a reward from.

1. Am I willing to please Jesus even if other people don't like it?
2. In what areas am I tempted to care more about what people think?