



"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe."

Proverbs 29:25

Insecurity results when we place our confidence or trust in people or things that can be taken away.

We stay in bondage to secret sins.

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We try to control people.

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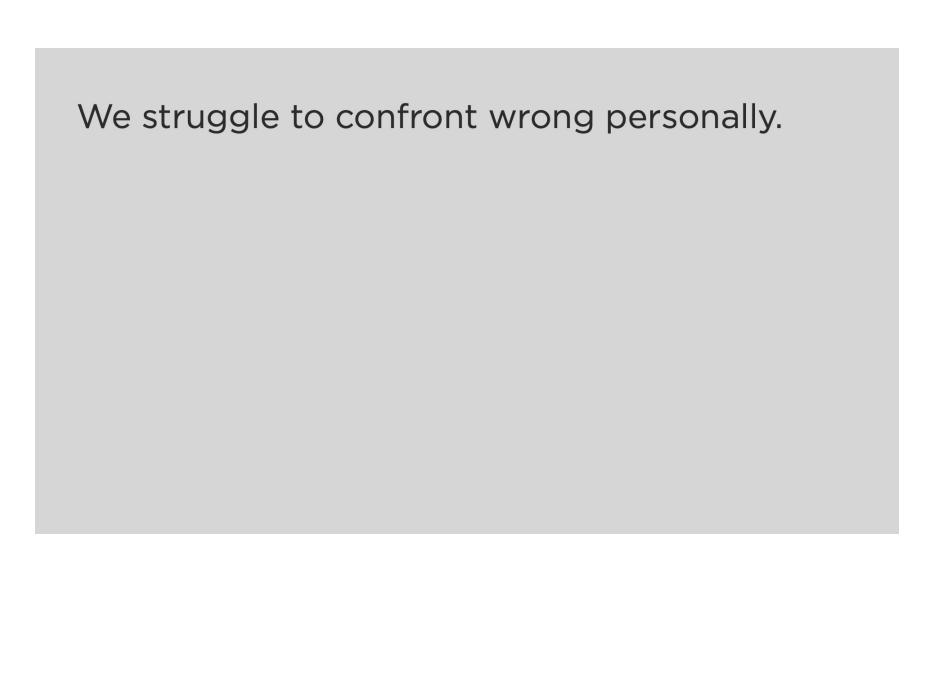
We (leaders) are threatened by questions and interpret differences as dangerous.

We stay in bondage to secret sins.

We try to control people.

We (leaders) are threatened by questions and interpret differences as dangerous.

We live with a low-grade frustration.



We struggle to confront wrong personally. We rarely share the gospel.

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We have nervous habits.

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We exaggerate - trying to make ourselves look better or our point stronger.

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We name drop.

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We exaggerate - trying to make ourselves look better or our point stronger.

We name drop.

We are more concerned about our reputations than God's reputation.

"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe."

Proverbs 29:25

• Who we are - a new identity (5:1-16)

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 - o Don't live for **status** (1-18)

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- How we live a new authority (5:17-48)
- What we <u>live for</u> a new security (6:1-34)
 - Don't live for <u>status</u> (1-18)
 - Don't live for <u>stuff</u> (19-34)

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 6:1

Living for People	Living for your Father
	BEHOLD THE KING MATTHEW

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Seen by (1, 5, 16, 18)	
	BEHOLD THE KING MATTHEW

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Acting before (2, 5, 16) "hypocrites"	
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Rewarded by (2, 5, 16) "praised by"	Rewarded by (4, 6, 18) "knows" BEHOLD THE KING MATTHEW

Example #1 - Giving

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1. The human optics of giving

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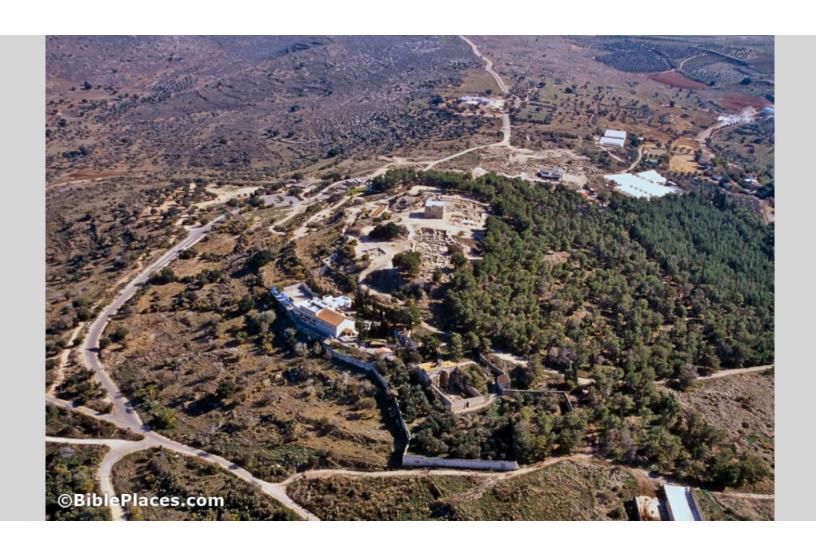
1. The human optics of giving

optics = public perception

• actors -

actors -

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets...." (2a)

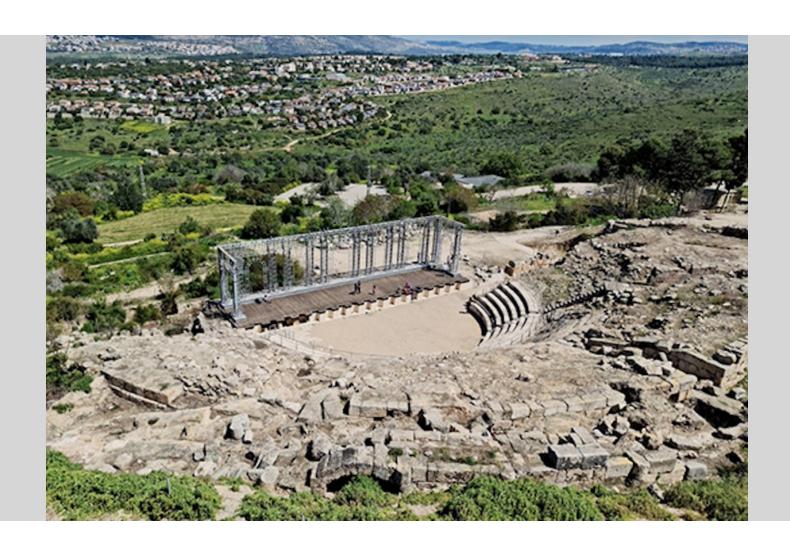




tekton = craftsman, engineer

tekton = craftsman, engineer artisan - fabrics tekton = craftsman, engineer artisan - fabrics carpenter - wood tekton = craftsman, engineer artisan - fabrics carpenter - wood stonemason - stone





hypocrites (hupokrites) =
 an actor who performed on a stage,
 often wearing a mask

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an actor who performed on a stage,
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"seen" - from the root word for "theater"

• <u>applause</u> -

• applause -

"that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward." (2b)

Example #1 - Giving

- 1. The human optics of giving
- 2. The divine optics of giving

• routine -

routine -

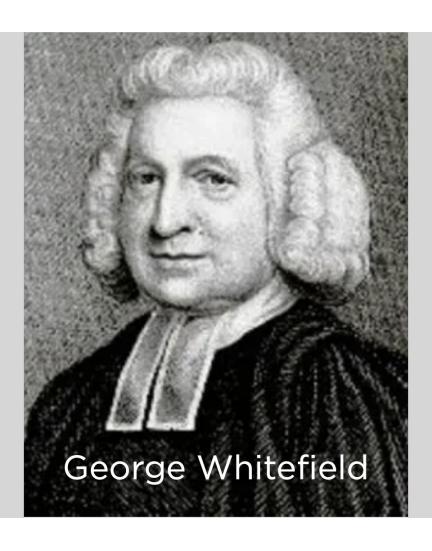
"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret." (3-4a) "The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get."

Luke 18:11-12

- <u>routine</u> -
- <u>reward</u> -

- <u>routine</u> -
- reward -

"And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (4b)



"The tide of popularity began to run very high. In a short time I could no longer walk on foot but was constrained to go on a coach from place to place to avoid the hosannas of the multitude.

"They grew quite extravagant in their applauses. And had it not been for my compassionate High Priest, popularity would have destroyed me.

"I used to plead with Him to take me by the hand and lead me unhurt through this fiery furnace. "He heard my request and gave me to see the vanity of all commendations but His own."

George Whitefield

"It is good for me that I have been supplanted, despised, censored, maligned, judged by and separated from my nearest, dearest friends.

"By this I have found the faithfulness of Him who is the Friend of friends ... and to be content that He to whom all hearts are open ... now sees ... the uprightness of my intentions to all mankind."

George Whitefield

1. Why is routine giving such a good example of <u>breaking the bondage</u> to the fear of man?

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

1 Timothy 6:17-19

2. Is it always wrong to **give publicly**?

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It is always wrong to give to be seen, but it is not always wrong to be seen giving. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them ..."

Matthew 6:1a

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly."

1 Chronicles 29:9

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

"Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

"Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

"And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

"... and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you."

1 Chronicles 29:11-14, 17b

2. How do we break free from the bondage of human.optics?

"My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net."

Psalm 25:15

"All experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us.

"Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. "Therefore, the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that God is awesome and glorious, not other people."

Ed Welch