

## SERMON NOTES

### REASON FOR GOD “Why Are Christians Such Hypocrites”

February 4-5, 2012  
Pastor Mark Wollan

#### Matthew 6: 1-6

<sup>1</sup> *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

<sup>2</sup> *“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

<sup>5</sup> *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

#### Matthew 6: 16-18

<sup>16</sup> *“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

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The Problem of Hypocrisy...

Jesus and Hypocrisy

Our Response

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Our Responsibility

The Good News of The Gospel

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### The Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,  
our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide,  
and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us  
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace  
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.