



ONE AWESOME SERMON:
ALLURED BY THE
APPLAUSE OF EARTH?

Matt. 6:16-18

VS. 16

“When you fast...” Fasting is assumed.

Historically present...

when needing to hear from God,

when in broken and repentant,

in times of mourning,

in the face of temptation,

when needing to discern the will of God

STOP SHOWING OFF!

“Don’t look somber...” “Don’t disfigure your face...”

The One who knows the hearts of men
knows they just wanted to be seen.

See John 12:42-43

In such cases, man’s applause IS the reward

So, keep my faith private? Just between me and God? The World would love that, and so would Satan

Absolutely not what Jesus is saying!
Matt 5:13-16; Phil. 2:12; 1 Peter 2:9-12

“So whether you eat or drink,
do it all for the glory of God.” (1 Cor. 10:31)

A warning from history Acts 12:21ff



VSS. 17 – 18A

Not only are we not to look miserable in the process of fasting thereby drawing attention to ourselves, we are to make a genuine effort to not look miserable.

“...put oil on your head and wash your face”

WHY?

“so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting”

VS. 18B

“The Father sees what is done in secret”

Really awesome if your heart is right.

Really disturbing if you're “a plank-eyed saint with dirty hands
and a heart divided.” (Casting Crowns)

And He will reward. Do I really want to settle for the praise of
the fickle masses?



Once again, Christ goes straight for the heart.

Keep it real.

Be a person of integrity.

Be authentic.

No falsehood/pretense

See Matt 23:1-4, 23-28

WHAT DOES AUTHENTICITY LEAD TO?

True fasting.

See Isaiah 58:1-9