

WELCOME TO



THE

LIFEHOUSE

CHURCH

NEW HERE?

We are so grateful you have joined us today. If this is your first time, stop by the “New Here” table. Fill out a Connection Card and we have a gift for you.

Series: CLOSER - 3 Steps to Grow Closer to God

Title: "Fasting"

Passage: Matthew 6:16-18

Preacher: Zach Imboden

Date: 1/21/2024

Matthew 6:16-18

¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

Big idea: God desires deeper _____ with you.

Two Challenges to Developing this Kind of Intimacy with Jesus

1. When we put on _____ in our relationship with God (vs 16)

All of us are tempted to wear a mask when:

- I want to prove to others that I am worthy of their love.
- I want to prove to myself that I am worthy of being loved.
- I want others not to feel sorry for me.
- I fear if others truly see me, they won't want to know me.
- I want to be seen as great.

Believers in Christ additionally are tempted to wear a mask when:

- My failures tell me that the experiment of grace didn't work
- I want to prove to God that I am worth His choice to love me
- I believe God wants me to fake it so He looks good
- I want God to make my life work and my behavior seems like the price tag
- I think God cares more about my right behaviors than my trust and dependence
- I think I am in competition with others, graded on a spiritual curve
- My shame makes me believe I must assuage God's disgust in me

Here is my question for you: What if there was a place so safe that the worst of me could be known, and I would discover that I would not be loved less but more in the telling of it?

2. Not Developing _____ Spiritual Rhythms (vs 17-18)

How Fasting Can Help Us Develop this Kind of Intimacy with Jesus?
Matthew 6:16 –18 Teaches Us How to “FAST”

F – _____ on God

A – _____ from Food

S – _____ your Time

T - _____ in God's Reward

How Do I Apply This To My Life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

LIFEHOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

Irresistible Initiative Q & A Meeting - January 24, We want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification, and join together in prayer. 9:30am - 11:00am (brunch) or 7:00 - 8:15pm (dessert) in the Coffeehouse

Night-of-Worship -January 28, from 6:00 to 7:15pm. As we embark on our Irresistible Initiative journey, we invite you to join us for a special Worship and Prayer Night.

Deep Budget Dive - February 1, 6:00pm in the Youth Room. Join us to preview and ask questions about the proposed budget for 2024.

Annual Business Meeting - February 4, 12:00-1:10pm. Come celebrate what God has done this past year and hear about Lifehouse's future. Elders and staff will share how God has moved in their ministries and what to expect next.

Student Ministry Wednesday Gathering - 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Youth Room. 6th-8th and 9th-12th graders come and join the fun games, worship and lesson.

Middle School Sunday Service: 9:30am in the Youth Room. 6th through 8th graders come and join the fun!

Young Adults: Tuesdays 7-8:30pm at the Vasquez home. For more into...CJ@thelifehousechurch.com

New Lifehouse Guest Wi-Fi password: tlcguest

Check out our website www.TheLifehouseChurch.com

Scan the QR code to download our Church Center App

