Review:

Lesson 1: Whom God Blesses

Lesson 2: Salt & Light Lesson 3: Law in 3D (Pt. 1) Lesson 4: Law in 3D (Pt. 2)

Heart for Performance Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

Jesus did not teach that we should give to the poor. He knew that, if we loved God, we would give to the poor. What he taught was that we should check our about we are giving to the poor. As always, the heart is what matters to God.
Discussion 1. Performance for others is a wrong reason to give to the poor. Can you think of any other wrong reasons to give to the poor? How do you check your own heart in this regard?
In a leadership culture, public prayer can become performative quickly and easily. What and have you put in place to guard your heart against that?
against that?
Discussion 2. When you pray with others, how do you keep your prayers focused on God rather than on the others who are listening? In your mind, what is the difference between "leading in prayer" and performative prayer?
Much of Jesus' teaching about prayer is that we should remember with whom we are communicating. When we pray with words intended to, we have missed that point.
Discussion 3. Can you think of any words/phrases that you have learned to use only when you pray (and not in conversation with other people)? Do these words/phrases help you pray better, or just sound better? Why does that matter?
In a culture filled with performative motives, Christ followers should be different. Doing good things for the will not grow us spiritually.
Discussion 4. For you, what are some past examples of doing good things for the wrong reasons? How often do you do self-examination of your motives? What does that look like for you?