

October 25, 2026

Learning #1: Jesus isn't expecting you to <u>have it all together</u>.

Matthew 6:1 (NLT) - *Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 6:2-4 (NLT) - *When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

Matthew 6:5-6 (NLT) - *When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.*

Matthew 6:16-17 (NLT) - *And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face.*

Learning #2: Spiritual growth begins <u>the moment that we stop pretending.</u>

Matthew 23:25-26 (NLT) - *What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-*

indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.

Luke 18:9-14 (NLT) - *Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'*

But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Learning #3: God can't heal the person that you <u>are pretending to be.</u> But God will heal the person <u>that you really are.</u>

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) - *People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) - *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

Psalm 103:8-12 (NLT) - *The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.*