

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

What is Your Motivation?

[Matthew 6:16-18](#)

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”^[a]

Like many of you, I grew up a fan of Indiana Jones and his adventures. In my favorite movie of that series, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, Indy is trying to find the Holy Grail. One of the many things standing in the way of his success is a group of loyal protectors who have sworn their lives to protect the grail. One of them asks Indy, “Why do you seek the grail? Is it for your glory or for Christ’s?”

The scripture for today from Matthew’s gospel asks us a similar question. Why do we do the things we believe to be pleasing to Christ?

What is our motivation? Are we doing these things to impress others by how “pious” we are? The scripture promotes fasting in a way that is not evident to others – put oil on your hair and wash your face. To go about unkempt during fasting would certainly bring attention, probably many questions of “what’s wrong?” from friends and family members; however, drawing attention to self, or creating drama, should not be the goal.

The pure motivation is a desire for a closer connection and relationship with our Heavenly Father, and scripture here says that He sees these efforts and will reward us.

***Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we adore you, and we confess that our motives have not always been pure. Some have been selfish, some of our worship efforts have been only habits, but we desire to glorify you through honest worship. Thank you for your desire to fellowship with us and please strengthen that desire in us. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Paula Beard McCoy
Grace United Methodist Church
Fort Spring, WV
mccoypaula411@gmail.com
Certified Lay Minister and Administrative Council Chair