

# 3

# Playing to an Audience of One



**kick off**

Australians hate 'posers'. Why do you think that is?

If we dislike posers so much why do we worry about what others will think of us, which is what posers do?



**key verse**

**Matthew 6:1** Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.



**big idea**

We are called as God's people to live for God's approval above all else—when we want the approval of man we quickly go off the rails. We are playing to an audience of one.



**investigate**

**read Matthew 6.1-24**

1. What are the 'acts of righteousness' Jesus is talking about in this passage?

2. When do 'acts of righteousness' go wrong?

3. What is the reward we get when we do our acts before men v 2, 5, 16?

4. How long does the reward of men last v19-20?

5. How do we make sure we are living for God's pleasure and not the praise of men?

6. How is the prayer of v9-13 a reflection of what Jesus is teaching in the passage?

7. *How does the section v19-24 fit the big idea of this passage?*

8. First read Dave's story. What do you relate to? What surprises you?

9. We don't tend to use trumpets when we give, or stand on street corners when we pray so as to draw attention to ourselves any more. So how do we do it all the same?

10. What's the difference between being a good example and living for the praise of men?

11. If you didn't get any praise for what you do at church would you do it?



**digging deeper**

**read**

Exodus 32

1 Samuel 15

Acts 5.1-11

Where does trying to please men get you?

**read**

Galatians 1.10

Where does pleasing God sometimes get you?

Matt.5.1-13



**Dave Thurston's story**

Being ministry is a great platform to practice your acts of righteousness before men, it's tailor made for hypocrisy. Doing church 'stuff' is a great privilege and a great danger—it's easy to play to the crowd rather than the audience of one—God alone.

There is a real discipline in continually asking the question, 'Am I doing this for God's approval rather than the approval of human beings'. Praise from men is nice when you get it but it must never be your prime motivation or else your ministry is profoundly corrupted and here is the real danger, corrupted behind a screen of holiness.



**think & apply**



putting it into practise

scenario 1: some one at church asks you how you do your quiet times... do you tell them or how do you tell them?

- someone who played to the crowd would....
- someone who look to the audience of one would...

scenario 2: Your friend at work says that 'the church is full of hypocrites'. Why do you think non-Christians say that and what would you say in return?

*"evangelism is the perpetual task of the whole church, and not the peculiar hobby of certain of its members"*

E. Wilson Carlisle



prayer points

what can you pray for arising from this study?

- &for members of your group...
- &for others linked to your group..
- &for non-believing friends...

our ministries:

pray this week for KIDS CHURCH...  
*Pray that our little ones will know the Lord and learn to follow him.*  
*Chris Morphew and Kathy Thurston leading the beginning of this term.*

partner church:

**TUGGERANONG PRESBYTERIAN**  
 Mike and Kerry Pitman were with us in 1999-2001 and have been at Tuggeranong for three years now. They have two children; Harry who has just started school and Jannah who is just three.  
 Prayer  
 Being focussed on building Christ's kingdom rather than being a comfortable club. The 'JESUS all about LIFE' ad campaign running in March and April aimed to raise the topic of who is Jesus in everyday conversation.



world mission:

**STUDENT MINISTRY**  
 pray that God will continue to open doors for the gospel in schools and universities around the world—especially for Andrew and Keryn as Student Life Sydney University begins the process of getting ready for the start of a new year.



church events

	annual general meeting Sunday march 26th	feb 25	music practice 2.00 pm – 12.30 lunch see Amy
		feb 27 mar 1 mar 6 mar 26	Committee of Management Charlotte Hartin's baptism Session/Ministry Leaders Meeting Annual General Meeting
	Up coming church family weddings Kate Goldsmith & Andrew Bower 19th Feb Maryann Evan & Campbell O'Harae 18th Mar		



family discussion

Share with each other on Sunday some ideas about how each of us can be aiming to get our praise for God and not from men (look at scenarios above for some ideas).  
 Pray for each other in these things—be specific!

for next week read  
 Matthew 6.19-7.12



reading ahead