

SECRET LIFE #4

Kenny Luck

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Matthew 23:25-28 NASB

MY IMAGE IS _____.

MY CHARACTER IS _____.

MY IMAGE IS _____.

MY CHARACTER IS _____.

“For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you.” Proverbs 23:7 NASB

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Proverbs 4:23 NASB

GOD’S MAN FOCUSES ON ...

JESUS’ CALL TO A SECRET LIFE OF FASTING/SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:16-18 NASB

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES _____.

“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face...” v16

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20 NASB

“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.” John 16:24 NASB

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES _____.

“...as the hypocrites do...” v16

They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth." Mark 12:14 NIV

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES _____.

"...for they neglect their appearance..." v16

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 NIV

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES _____.

"...so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting." v16

"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that one gets justice." Proverbs 29:25-26 NIV

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES _____.

"Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full." v16

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES _____.

"But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:17-18 NASB

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," Acts 3:19 NIV

"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38 NIV

"The discipline of the Christian disciple is not to master anything but to be mastered by the Spirit. True Christian discipline is the human effort to create the space in which the Spirit of Christ can transform us into his image." - Henry Nouwen

FOR DISCUSSION:

WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE IMAGE TRUMPS CHARACTER IN CULTURE? WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

HOW DO SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES HELP US DO THE WORK OF THE HEART?

WHICH ASPECT OF "SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES" RESONATES WITH YOU PERSONALLY? WHY?

HOW CAN WE THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT FASTING AND SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES?

WHAT DO YOU SENSE GOD NUDGING YOU TO DO AS A RESULT OF TODAY'S STUDY?