

# STUDY NOTES

## VISION 2019

a series at New City Church

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message "Vision: Practicing Our Righteousness: Give, Pray, Fast" on 1/20/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:1-18 (READ THROUGHOUT)

## PRACTICING YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

**Read Matthew 6:1-6.** Righteousness means "right standing with God." Christians are given a right standing before God through Jesus. You don't have to **prove** your righteousness, nor do you have to **pay** for your righteousness. Proving or paying for your righteousness means you are self-righteous.

**Christians are Jesus-righteous.**

- *What is your experience with people who act self-righteous?*
- *How do you find yourself tempted to act self-righteous?*

## WHY DO YOU FAST?

**Read Matthew 6:16-18.** Jesus calls his followers to practice fasting. Why?

- 1) Fast for strength in our weakness. (Ezra 8:21; Psalm 69:10)
- 2) Fast before important decisions. (Acts 13:1-3, 14:23; 2 Cor 6:5, 11:27)
- 3) Fast to call for justice. (Isaiah 58:6-9)

- 4) Fast to see God do miracles. (Matthew 17:21)
- 5) Fast because the community calls for it. (Joel 1:14)

- *Which one of these speaks to you most? Why?*
- *In your experience how does a fast humble you, reminding you of your frailty?*
- *What would the attitude of Christians be like if they regularly fasted for justice?*

## ASK FOR MORE OF GOD

In the language that the New Testament was written, "fast" means "one who is empty". God should be the main ingredient in your recipe of fasting. You will be extra miserable if you fast without God. Since God is enough for you, it's okay to ask God for more of himself.

- *How have you been reminding yourself that God is enough for you while fasting or not fasting?*
- *Have you ever asked for more of God? What keeps you from asking for more of him? Or what has happened when you do ask for more of him?*

## YOU ARE CALLED BELOVED

We fast because we ARE the beloved, not to BE loved by God. Do you believe He loves you? He says we are the beloved, which tells you how you are loved and who you are loved by.

**BE - Loved = I AM Loved = GOD - Loved.**

- How have you experienced God's love this week?
- Pray with each other and ask for more of God in your life.