

Deane Church + Lostock Church  
w/b Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
**Matthew 6:1-18**  
***Being real about relationship***

1. Three times in this passage (vv 2, 5 & 16) Jesus talks about hypocrites. What are some features of hypocrisy and why can it be so damaging to individuals and to the wider community?

2. How were people being hypocritical in each of these scenarios?

(i) in giving to the needy (vv 2-4)

(ii) in prayer (vv 5-15)

(iii) in fasting (vv 16-18)

NB Fasting is a Biblical practice which many Christians follow today to accompany a time of intensive prayer.

3. How might hypocrisy drift into our Christian attitudes and practices today? What might cause that to happen?

4. The great Christian theologian and pastor Jim Packer in his book *Knowing God* says:

*'You sum up the whole of New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as **a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator**'*

(J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* p 224)

How should a growing appreciation of God as **Father** (vv 1, 4, 6a, 6b, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18a, 18b) affect our lives?

5. What do you need to address in your thinking / life/ priorities to get away from / guard from drifting into any religious hypocrisy and get into a closer relationship with your loving heavenly Father?