Dear Open Door Family,

Down through the years I have enjoyed playing and watching basketball. When I was in high school one of the schools that I enjoyed watching was UCLA. They played a fast paced game that was fun to watch. But it was not until later that I discovered Coach John Wooden was a committed Christian. Coach Wooden passed into the Lord's presence this past week. And all the records which he still holds as a coach mean nothing. The interesting thing is that most of the players that he coached say that he was a great basketball coach but that he was even better at teaching them how to live life. They may not have embraced Wooden's faith but they respected and admired him. They knew that this was a man who walked the talk in all of life. He believed the Bible was God's Word and it formed and shaped all that he did.

John Wooden once said...
Material possessions, winning scores, and great reputations are meaningless in the eyes of the Lord, because He knows what we really are and that is all that matters.

Basketball is not the ultimate. It is of small importance in comparison to the total life we live. There is only one kind of life that truly wins, and that is the one that places faith in the hands of the Savior. Until that is done, we are on an aimless course that runs in circles and goes nowhere.

He was a man who sought after God and tried to live out His Faith everyday in a complicated and difficult world. Let's look at these verses together.

Matthew 6:1 *(NIV) "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.*

Matthew 6:1 *(NLT) "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds PUBLICLY, to be ADMIRED by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 6:1 *(MSG) ...don't make a PERFORMANCE out of it...*

Two facts come through very clearly; I am to be involved in "**acts of righteousness**" or "**good deeds**" things which are partial proof that there is a reality to my Christian TALK. However, I am supposed to do those things without trying to put myself in the spotlight. I should not make a "**performance**" or a show out of the things I do. If my desire is that others see what I do and "**ADMIRE**" me because of it then the question must be asked, are they still acts of righteousness or have they become acts of pride?

PRAYER: O Lord, help me to do what is right and not be concerned about whether or not anyone notices. Please Lord, keep me from trying to be noticed - keep me from seeking the attention or the spotlight. Please Lord, help me to seek to make YOU look good. Help me to do what I should because it Honors You.

Pastor Mark Kieft
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>