SECRET GIVING AND SECRET PRAYING

F.B. Meyer:

Matthew 6:1-8
First we have the general proposition that righteousness, that is, oneÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s religious duties, should not be done for the sake of display; and that principle is then applied to alms, prayer, and fasting-the three departments into which the Jews divided personal religion.
The words take heed in Matthew 6:1 are very searching! We are all likely to put better goods in the window than we have anywhere on our shelves; and to show fairer samples than we can supply in bulk. The Greek word for hypocrite means stage actor. Ã¢â‚¬Å“We are tempted to assume on Sunday a religious attire which we certainly do not wear in the home or in business.
In her account of the first Burman convert, Mrs. Judson says: few days ago, I was reading with him Matthew 6:1-34. He was deeply impressed and solemn. Ã¢â‚¬ËœThese words,Ã¢â‚¬â„¢ said he, Ã¢â‚¬Ëœtake hold of my very heart. They make me tremble. When our people visit the pagodas, they make a great noise with trumpets. But this religion makes the mind fear God.