

Study of Matthew
November 6th, 2022

Discussion Question: How would you describe your motives in giving?

Matthew 6:1 – 4

Remember that Jesus has began this part of the discourse with sharing a righteousness that is greater than the Scribes & Pharisees. In this part of HIS sermon Jesus is going to deal with motives.

Either we have motives that are pure in deeds, devotions and disciplines or we play the game of a hypocrite.

Hypocrite is defined an actor under an assumed character (stage-player); literally a pretender

Hypocrisy always leads us into deception. We can get to the point that our dishonest, phony and false actions are viewed as spiritual, when in fact it is all for outward show.

1. Commitment

vs. 1 Take heed that you do not do ; vs. 2 & 3 when you do

The ESV says *“Beware of practicing your righteousness...”*

Jesus will deal with three things that righteous people are committed to: giving, praying & fasting. The scriptural expectation is that we do these.

You can do the right thing the wrong way and it is sinful!

Jesus is dealing with the individual responsibility here but HE has great expectation that we also do these together.

2. Compassion

Alms means Charitable deeds

Many avenues to do charitable deeds.

Prov 19:17 *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”* [ESV]

3. Choice

“When you give” implies an unspecified time

Whenever can imply when you decide

2 Cor 9:7 *“Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* [ESV]

4. Concealing vs. Attracting Attention

Don't blow a trumpet to let people know what you are doing

Many streets in those days were really narrow...especially if he had Jerusalem in mind...can you imagine blowing a trumpet in a narrow street?

- Awesome sound
- Amplified
- Attention getter

Adrian Rogers called this pretense "satan's academy award."

We are called to do our charitable deeds without fanfare.

5. Consequences Reward

Note two rewards / consequences based on how we give...

Wrong Motives – Before men... the person gets the pay of men's applause of men

Right or Righteous Motives is rewarded but leaves it up to the Father...HE determines how you get rewarded!

When you leave it in God's hands, HE is the ONE that watches over you...HE knows your greatest need and yes even knows your desires

2 Cor 9:8-11 "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."
[ESV]

Sometimes the reward is seed, sometimes it is harvest,
Sometimes it is just sufficiency...I have enough in every area...I don't have too much and I don't have shortfall.

Sometimes it is abundance in every way

KEY: Leave it in God's hands and we will get what we need when we need it!