

Giving Secrets

Introduction:

In the SOTM, Jesus gave pointed instruction practicing acts righteousness (kindness, generosity, compassion) to others. He makes clear his expectations as to motive, method, and motivation.

*Read text: **Matthew 6:1-4** and lead in prayer.*

❖ **a caution about motive** (warning, be on guard, take heed)

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 6:1

recall what Jesus already mentioned earlier:

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Many know **Ephesians 2:8-9**, but how many know **verse 10**?

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 **GOSPEL**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:14-17

"to be seen by men" is the key. The Lord's message is a warning of our ability to turn right and honorable actions into opportunities to gain recognition from others.

Transition: Note verse 1 is *good deeds* in general. verses 2-4 hone in more on *giving to the needy*.

❖ **a correction about method**

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Matthew 6:2-3

Obvious that Jesus expected his disciples to be generous givers -JRWS

Again, there is an implied expectation that followers of Christ will be active in giving to the needy.

-Not so much what the hand is doing but what the heart is thinking while the hand is doing it. JRWS "secret" does not belittle or embarrass the needy. treat with dignity. (V.P. does this)

"As the hypocrites..." Too many hypocrites in the synagogue!

In classical Greek the hupokrites was first an orator and then an actor. In disguise, impersonating somebody else. In a theatre there is no harm or deceit in the actors playing their parts. The trouble with a religious hypocrite is that he deliberately sets out to deceive (for applause) JRWS p. 129

For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. Matthew 26:11.

a few stories of giving:

Witcher Baptist: Iva Lyn 9000 towards project.

Shields: sister of member from California; Nan Trosper & piano funds

FBCFC: lot between churches for youth and community (Gary O.); Mrs. Ditmer

FBCB: \$500.00 for me to distribute; any kids to camp; crisis trip to WV, Airline tickets to see kids

The single mom, who gives in the spite of kids needing shoes, rising property taxes, fuel tax, etc. But you are obedient. The widow with the minimal income and mounting health care costs, yet gives faithfully and joyfully.

There are many people who desire to bless the needy, but are slaves to debt. The whole idea behind FPU and Momentum was for people to gain freedom from debt. SO that people may know the joy of tithing and giving over and above.

You may not be wealthy, and you may not think your contribution is much, but practicing storehouse tithing and above and beyond giving. That consistent, faithful amount adds up.

Cooperative church. Joining with nearly 50 churches in our association, nearly 1000 in our state, and 40,000 in the nation. Do so much more together!

giving to SBC church = Some stays local. Vision Plus (discernment, dignity . Association, State, Cooperative program =Global hunger, disaster relief, victims of human trafficking, the mom who has chosen life for her baby,

-How can you use your time, talents, incomes, to help others in need? Think local, think Guatemala sponsorship.

❖ **a confirmation about motivation**

so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Mt. 6:4

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

Challenge/Response:

Story Matthew 25:31-46. As followers of Jesus Christ, our acts of ministry, benevolence, service, recognizing, and giving to others in need is significant. The lives of others, and our lives are changed for eternity.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4 ESV

“Be [very] careful not to do your [a]good deeds publicly, to be seen by men; otherwise you will have no reward [prepared and awaiting you] with your Father who is in heaven.

2 “So whenever you give to the poor and do acts of kindness, do not blow a trumpet before you [to advertise it], as the hypocrites do [like actors acting out a role] in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored and recognized and praised by men. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, they [already] have their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the poor and do acts of kindness, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing [give in complete secrecy], 4 so that your charitable acts will be done in secret; and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4 AMP

Blues parade. 500,000 fans. Individual players being cheered and taking turns lifting the trophy... Imagine the reward in heaven. All the challenges, persecution, suffering will seem so little in light of eternity and the presence of the Savior. The fanfare, the welcome, will be so amazing. And we will take the crown(s) and cast them at the feet of Jesus. Anything I have done, is only because of Jesus. Anything I have given, is only because Jesus gave his life for me.