

GIVING IN THE RIGHT WAY

Matthew 6:1-4

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Jesus often exposed many of Israel's religious leaders...for being hypocrites ... religious play-actors...and spiritual phonies.
- b. While these religious leaders...made a great show of their religion... Jesus said they were hypocrites...because their true motive was to not to worship God...but to impress people.
- c. Some today say they don't attend church because the church is "full" of hypocrites...while it is true that churches are "full" of saved but imperfect sinners who sometime fail to live and act as they should...it is not true that the church is "full" of hypocrites.
- d. There are some hypocrites in the church...but there are far more hypocrites in the world than in the church...and those who say they stay away from the church because of the hypocrites...are being hypocrites themselves!!!
- e. The real reason they don't attend church is because they don't want to...they just use the "hypocrite" reason as an excuse.
- f. And these same people are not bothered by hypocrites anywhere else...if they had the chance to make money by doing business with a hypocrite...they would do it in a heartbeat.
- g. They work with hypocrites...they go to school with hypocrites...they party and play with hypocrites...they buy and sell products made by hypocrites...they campaign and vote for hypocrites...they pay to watch hypocrites perform...they idolize and make hypocrites their heroes...and they are hypocrites themselves in a thousand different ways...but yet they won't go to church because they say there are hypocrites there!
- h. Church is where hypocrites belong...hypocrites need to be in church...so they can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and get right with God.

II. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO BE HYPOCRITES-

- a. In these verses...Jesus teaches that those who follow Him are not to be hypocrites ...what we do for the Lord...must always to be motivated by...a true and genuine desire to honor and glorify Him.
- b. It is important that we do the right thing...but it is even more important that we do the right thing for the right reason.
- c. In these verses...Jesus teaches those who follow Him...are not to be hypocritical in their giving.
- d. When a person is saved...God gives them a new heart...He changes us from being “takers and users” to being givers.
- e. *Ephesians 4:28 (NKJV) “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”*
- f. Christians should be the most generous and giving people in the world...we are to give to those who are in need...we are to give to the Lord... we are called to give our lives in service and sacrifice to God and to others.
- g. And when we give...the first place God looks is our heart...if what we give...is not given out of a heart of true love and devotion for God ... then what we give will not be acceptable to Him...no matter how big or generous the gift may be.

III. HYPOCRITICAL GIVING-

- a. In these verses Jesus speaks about a specific kind of giving..."alms" were gifts given to those who were needy...poor...and destitute.
- b. Because God is kind and merciful...He expects His people to be kind and merciful too.
- c. *Deuteronomy 15:7,11 (NIV) “If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother...10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart...”1 John 3:17 (NIV) “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”*

- d. The Lord Jesus expects His people to help those who are in need...but Jesus warns us not to be hypocrites...who give only to be seen and honored by men.
- e. The hypocritical givers of Jesus' day made a big commotion when they gave...but instead of giving to help others and to honor God...these hypocrites gave to put on a show...to draw attention to themselves...they did the right thing but for the wrong reason.
- f. Jesus said that hypocrites had better enjoy the applause and attention they received in this world...because that is all the reward they would ever receive ... God does not reward hypocrisy...He punishes it.

IV. OUR MOTIVE IN GIVING-

- a. What Jesus teaches about the giving of alms...applies to all that we give...and all that we do for the Lord.
- b. The reason why the Bible speaks so often on the subject of giving... especially the giving of money...is because our faith and finances go hand in hand.
- c. What we do with our wallet and checkbook...says as much about our faith...as what we do with our Bible.
- d. Jesus teaches...that while the amount we give to God is important ...the motive of our giving...is even more important.
- e. Jesus teaches that if our motive for giving is not right...then whatever we give to God...will not be pleasing and acceptable to Him.
- f. Why we give and serve...determines whether our gifts and service...are acceptable to God... *2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*
- g. If the only reason you give is to get a tax deduction...then you had better hold on to the receipt the church gives you and treasure it...because that's all the reward you are ever going to get.
- h. If we don't give because we love Jesus...and because we want to see the work of God supported...and because we want to see people saved and reached for

Christ...then no matter what the IRS puts down you gave...God writes down a big fat zero.

- i. If we don't give and serve and worship...because we love Jesus...then our gifts and service and worship mean nothing to God.

V. RIGHT HAND AND LEFT HAND-

- a. What did Jesus mean when He said...*Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)* “*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...*”
- b. Jesus is not condemning public giving...public worship...or public service...nor is He condemning systematic giving...or the keeping of financial records.
- c. Jesus is saying that we are to give in such a way...that God is glorified and we are not...we are not to give...serve...or worship for human recognition or honor ... but to honor and glorify God.

VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. God promises to reward and bless those who give the right amount...in the right spirit...and in the right way...*Matthew 6:4 (NKJV)* “*...Your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*”
- b. God will bless us physically with good health...materially with all we need and more...and spiritually with answered prayer...greater scriptural insight and understanding...spiritual power...greater opportunities for spiritual service.
- c. If you are not a Christian...giving money to the church and trying to serve the Lord will do you no good...you can't give enough to be saved...and you can't do enough to be saved.
- d. *1 John 5:11-12 (NIV)* “*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*”
- e. To receive God's gift of eternal life and salvation...you must receive His Son as your personal Lord and Savior.