

JAN 3, 2021

TO BE SEEN: GIVING

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4. (NIV)

Historical-Biblical Context:

- For a first century Jew, life \_\_\_\_\_ around the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their common \_\_\_\_\_ included giving, prayer and fasting.
- There was no \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ was truly essential.

Jesus' Teaching on Giving:

Don't be a \_\_\_\_\_ who gives to \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't give to \_\_\_\_\_.

“Their deeds are ‘in secret’ no matter who is watching, for they are absorbed in the love of God and of those around them. They hardly notice their own deed, and rarely remember it.”  
—Dallas Willard. The Divine Conspiracy

Seek \_\_\_\_\_ more than \_\_\_\_\_ and be assured he will \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ . v4; Mark 12:29; Heb 12:2

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What thought from the message was most helpful to you?

What thought from the message was most challenging to you?

How is God calling you to respond to the message?

What questions remain for you about giving and motive?

What is God teaching you these days?

What would you like the group to join you in praying about?

JAN 3, 2021

TO BE SEEN: GIVING

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4. (NIV)

#### Historical-Biblical Context:

- For a first century Jew, life CENTERED around the SYNAGOGUE.
- Their common SPIRITUAL PRACTICES included giving, prayer and fasting.
- There was no PUBLIC ASSISTANCE so CHARITABLE GIVING was truly essential.

#### Jesus' Teaching on Giving:

**Don't** be a HYPOCRITE who gives to IMPRESS OTHERS.

**Don't** give to IMPRESS YOURSELF.

“Their deeds are ‘in secret’ no matter who is watching, for they are absorbed in the love of God and of those around them. They hardly notice their own deed, and rarely remember it.”  
—Dallas Willard. The Divine Conspiracy

**Seek** GOD'S APPROVAL more than ANYTHING and be assured he will REWARD YOU. v4; Mark 12:29; Heb 12:2

### TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What thought from the message was most helpful to you?

What thought from the message was most challenging to you?

How is God calling you to respond to the message?

What questions remain for you about giving and motive?

What is God teaching you these days?

What would you like the group to join you in praying about?