



Lesson #8: Life Lessons About Generosity (6:1-4; 19-24)

Our study through the greatest sermon ever preached has taught us much about living righteously in an unrighteous world. Jesus pointed out that the _____ of the Pharisees was inadequate.

- 5:21-48 focuses on the _____ of the law [what men believe]

Now Jesus begins to point out that their religious _____ was inadequate.

- 6:1-18 focuses on the _____ of the law [what men do]

Some would say that when the preacher begins preaching on money he goes from preaching to meddling. If that's the case then our Savior was certainly a meddling preacher. Of the 29 parables Christ told, _____ deal with a person and his money. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke 1 out of every _____ verses deals with money. Christ even used money in personal evangelism (The Right Young Ruler). The message of Matthew 6:1-4 is very clear. Your pocketbook has a direct line to your _____.

BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT YOUR _____ WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY

"Alms" – Any motivation to give in any way to any institution, person, or cause.

This is a wide word and is not just referring to _____.

A. Don't give to be _____ of men

That word "Take heed" (or "_____") is used _____ times by Jesus to open a statement. Here Jesus warns you to beware of seeking to impress people. If your motives are to impress others you have your reward but it is on earth, not in heaven.

B. Don't give to be _____ of by men

The false righteousness of the Pharisees, Jesus assures us, will never qualify a person for God's kingdom. God does not reward men-pleasers, because they rob Him of His _____. Don't give to be spoken of by men but give secretly that your reward come from God.

BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT YOUR _____ WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY

There is an assumption about believers and what they do with their money:

"Therefore _____ though givest thine alms."

A. It is assumed that where there is spiritual _____ there is spiritual _____

Just like breathing indicates physical life; _____ indicates spiritual life. There is an internal motivation as part of the believer's new life that pushes him to be generous. His movement is that of a gift giver.

B. It is assumed that where there is spiritual _____ there is _____ giving

These people did not give alms unless they could be seen and praised for their generosity. In calling them "hypocrites" Jesus was saying that they were like actors in a play, acting out a part. The trouble with religious hypocrites is that they deliberately set out to _____ people. They are like actors, yet they take some religious action, which is real, and turn it into something it never intended to be – a _____ display before an audience.

BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT YOUR _____ WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY

Jesus is concerned about how you approach the whole concept of giving and service.

A. You are to give _____

To "not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" involves not only the praise of others but _____ as well. Christian giving is marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-_____.

B. You are to give for the _____ and not for _____

The question is not whether or not our good works should be seen by others, but whether or not they are done for that end.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and _____ you _____ which is in Heaven" (Matt. 5:16)

At this point the message of this text should be clear. Our giving is not to be before people (waiting for the applause) nor really before ourselves, but before _____ alone!

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The assumption through the pages of the Bible is that since a Christian has been born again his new _____ will reflect his new _____. How's your reflection right now? Are service and sacrifice a normal part of your everyday experience?

Do you _____ to _____ with others?

Your pocketbook has a direct line to your heart.