**THE GREATER REWARD**

**Matthew 6:1-4**

* *“For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:20)
* *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)

**WHEN WE GIVE FINANCIALLY WE SHOULD NOT DO SO TO BE SEEN AND APPLAUDED BY OTHERS**

* *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. 2 So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.”* (Matthew 6:1-2)
* **It is not inherently wrong to share about good deeds or be recognized for a job well done.**
* *“Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:1b)
* **Jesus said that if your goal is to have the applause of people then don’t expect a reward from the Lord.**
* *“So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.”* (Matthew 6:2)
* **There is no argument to be made by any Christian that giving, whether to the poor or the church, is not an expectation the Lord has of all of His followers.**
* **Don’t do anything for the praises of people, but do it for an audience of One. Do it for the glory of God.**

**WHENEVER WE GIVE FINANCIALLY IT SHOULD BE DONE WITH A HEART TO PLEASE GOD ALONE**

* *“But when you give to the poor, don’t 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 6:3-4)
* **God knows the motives of our heart and He responds accordingly.**
* *“O Lord, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.”* (Psalm 139:1-4)
* **In Matthew 6, Jesus teaches us that when our motives are selfish and self-serving we have already received our reward. BUT, when our motives are pure, done out of a heart of obedience to glorify God, then God rewards us!**

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* How does Matthew 6:1-4 relate to Matthew 5:16 and 5:20?
* What is the difference between “letting your light shine before others” (Matthew 5:16) and “practicing your righteousness n front of others to be seen by them” (Matthew 6:1)?
* What did Jesus mean when He said, “don’t let your right hand know what your left hand is doing”?
* According to Matthew 6:1-4, how does God respond to different motives for giving?

**Digging Deeper:**

* Why do you think so many people seek the praise and recognition of others? Have you struggled with this (past or present)?
* How have you viewed your giving in the past and what motivated you to give? What is your motivation now as you give to people/God through the Church?
* What are some of the ways “your Father…will reward you” when you give biblically and faithfully? (Matthew 6:4)
* What is your biggest takeaway from this sermon and study?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule. (See back)