

# God's Guidelines For Giving

TEXT: MT 6: 1-4, 5-6

INTRO.

- I believe Christians... as a whole think they are a giving people.
- To some extent they are -
- But unfortunately they have decided the way to give, without first consulting the word of God.
- And although most Christians intentions may be sincere; still they are disobedient to the word of God.

Often what happens they get the glory instead of God. This morning; we want to look at God's Guidelines for Giving and the result of following them.

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 Notice starts off VI with TAKE HEED  
 In other words "listen-up" take notice" what is to follow - is very important

- Giving MT 6: 1-4 -
- Find <sup>we</sup> God's Guidelines for Giving
- VI <sup>How</sup> not to give before men, be seen of men -
- In other words - not to make a open display of your giving.
- Some people give in such a way - they ensure others see them giving.
- They give when other people around to see them give -
- So, they will get the credit and the glory and not God.
- VI - tells us if give in such a way - before men - result - no reward in heaven

(2)

v2 - Continues instructions on how to give -  
"do not sound a trumpet before thee" -

• In other words don't go around saying  
"Look what I did"

"I gave such and such to so and so"

"Don't go <sup>about</sup> <sup>to</sup> footing your own trumpet  
making a big display of what did -  
so-called

• We have some 'Christian' works -  
which make a big deal on the number  
of people fed and clothed -

They sound like a secular organization  
e.g. United Way - God<sup>'s</sup> never mentioned -  
only man - and what he did -

v2 - Tells us - "as the hypocrites do in the  
synagogues and in the streets" -

• Our verse said the most guilty of doing this  
is the religious crowd. - hypocrites do in the  
synagogues

• Because all world religions based on  
working their way to heaven.

So, when Christians go around bragging what they did for some one or what they did for the Church -

They are acting like the folks who based their salvation on their good works -

v2 - Tells us the motive for men giving in this way - is to receive the "glory of men" -

We have to be careful about desiring the "glory of men" - see Acts 12:21-23 -

The Bible talks about God is to get the glory in all things -

see I Cor 6:20 - Reason to glorify God - bought with a price -

see I Pe 4:11 - "God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ" -

• The motive to receive the glory of men comes from the heart -

The Bible tells us about the heart -

Jer 17:9

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Mark 7: 20-23 - We are told -

"That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man."

Then it lists evil things which proceed from the heart

And one of them is pride -

You see you and I like to receive the glory and praise of men - because our old nature likes to be lifted up -

Just like Satan wanted to be lifted up and elevated over God. -

- Christian that old nature is still in you - and we struggle with it everyday.
- That is why you have a conflict inside, that you never had before.
- If you deny that you love being lifted up - then you are headed for trouble.
- Maybe you have already run into some trouble because of your need to be lifted up.
- Your motive for giving <sup>should be</sup> No, so God gets the glory and the credit not you.
- So, whoever is the recipient of your giving ~~should be~~ clearly the Lord Jesus Christ as "the giver and not you! Amen!"

v2- ends with "Verity" - or Truly -  
"I say unto you, They have their  
reward"

The Lord is saying if your giving  
is done openly - Then you have  
already received your reward -

Your reward has come from  
receiving the glory of men - it is

We want to note - the glory and <sup>an earthly</sup> ~~reward~~ <sup>like</sup>  
praise of men - is a temporary <sup>the</sup> ~~reward~~ <sup>earth</sup> ~~reward~~ <sup>it</sup>  
reward - <sup>will pass</sup> ~~away~~ <sup>someday</sup>

It is not eternal - it will perish -  
rot, and decay -

(I Cor  
3: 10-15)

It is of the wood, hay, and  
stubble type - of service to the Lord  
that will be - burned at the  
judgment seat of Christ if you  
are a Christian

• V3 - The Lord instructs us in how we are to give -  
read V3 -

• First we are not to consciously keep track of our giving -

• In example -  
Sizing up the situation, where your giving will get the greatest praise of men - and receive the greatest glory of men -

• Our giving is not to be calculated.

• Where will I get the biggest bang for my buck!  
as church - we give in places the world would look done upon -  
We are to give in such a way, that our left hand doesn't know what our right hand is doing -  
In other words we are not to be preoccupied in our giving -

not  
bumbling  
faucets  
more  
eternal  
rewards  
reaped  
than  
earthly

We are to give in such a way that even part of us doesn't even know what is going on. -

The reason for down playing our giving is so that as it says in v4 -

"That thine alms may be in secret"

"In secret" - so man cannot see it or heard about it -

"In secret" so you won't receive the praise and glory of men -

"In secret" - so God will receive all the honor, all the glory and all the praise -

"In secret" so only God will see -

The type of giving which is in secret - is the type of service to the Lord - <sup>is made up</sup> made up of gold, silver, and precious stones.



Giving that is done in secret by the Christian is the type of work that will abide at the judgment seat of Christ.

It is the type of work that the Christian will receive an eternal reward for.

v4- tells us if we give in secret - "and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." -

I believe, the Father will also reward you - here somehow on this earth -

He will reward thee openly -

He will reward you in such a way as folks will know that God did it and not man -

• God's instructions for giving is very simply -

You want to be openly rewarded by God then you must give in secret -

• You will not only be rewarded eternally but also while here on this earth. -

• When we think of giving - we often think of money -

• But giving not only includes money, but it also includes giving of other material things -

e.g. clothes, furnishings etc.

• Giving also includes - your time reaching out to someone -

That is why our policy on giving here at ODBC is on a scriptural basis.

For example -

If you know someone has a need in the Church - be it <sup>money,</sup> clothes, furnishings, food, - etc.

And you feel that the Lord would have you help meet that need - then according to the scriptures it must done in secret.

How do you do that?

By going through the Pastor's office.  
By telling the Pastor, "I know so and so has a particular need and I would like to help" -

Then the Pastor in turn would pass on whatever the gift was and telling the person that it was from "the Church" collectively.

That way God gets the glory -

You get a eternal reward -  
 And your Father promises to  
 reward you openly -

If on the other-hand -  
 you give to the person directly -

Results - no eternal reward -  
 - Your Father will not reward  
 you in the open -

You already got your reward -  
 "glory of men" -

Your flesh has been satisfied -  
 and whether you want to  
 believe or not - you have become  
 endeared to the person you  
 give to -

You have created your own little  
 following - Clique -

• You see the only person an individual should be endeared to should be the Lord Jesus Christ

• You see you hurt the Church when someone becomes endeared to you

• You have a falling-out with the Pastor and leave.

• That person who has become endeared to you - is effected and follows you.

• This includes not only giving of material things but also in reaching out to someone - giving your time -

• We have too many Christians who feel they have a special ability in dealing with another Christian's problem.

• Often, the time spent with that person ends up in nothing but a gossip session.

Leave the counselling to the great Counsellor, the Lord Jesus Christ and his under Shepherd, the Pastor

Again, a person can become endeared to another person by the amount time they spend with them.

You want the person to be dependent on the Lord <sup>Jesus</sup>. Just as with material giving - similar problems will arise. with the giving of our time.

- Things to remember when giving -
- Must be done in secret.
- God must get the glory -
- Results -

P - you will be rewarded - openly by the Father himself -

- PLEA - Christians are you after the day of revelation  
SAVED / UNSAVED -