

The MOUNT Message

The Disciple & The Needy: Lesson 9

(Matthew 6:1-4)



The EXPERIENCE Bible Study
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September 28, 2021

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

- Chapter focuses on the religious practices of giving, prayer and tating. There is no command to observe these practices for it's assumed that Jesus's disciples ***will continue*** to make these fundamental elements of their lives.

The primary point being made in all three examples is not the contrast between private & public worship, neither between external & interior behavior BUT it focuses on ***motivations***.

WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?

A. *Affirmation/ Applause* of Humans vs. Reward of Being *Accepted* By God

B. Jesus uses the term "*hypocrites*" as a metaphor describing the objective of those who perform religious acts with an eye on human grandstanding.

C. "Hypocrites" Greek term meaning "*stage actors*" - those who perform for entertainment.

GIVING TO THE NEEDY (vs.2-4)

1. These metaphors are ***not literal in nature*** for there is no evidence of trumpets sounding in the giving of large gifts neither is it literally possible for one hand to know what the other hand is doing. (vs.2-3)
2. The emphasis is on doing one's religious duty to God in such a manner that ***only God*** sees. (Ex: TBC Love Fast)
3. This thought is in tension with 5:16 and ***should not be viewed as "Biblical contradictions"*** but Matthew is incorporating two different traditions of scribal wisdom.

GIVING TO THE NEEDY (vs. 2-4)

- 4. For Matthew, the Gospel is *not intended as a rule for life* but to stimulate imagination and personal responsibility to the teachings of Jesus.
- 5. The word "*openly*", found in the KJV, *was added by scribes in later manuscripts*, therefore, it's not an original part of the statement and it affects the meaning. (vs.4)
- 6. The promised reward is *eschatological* (eschatology = the part of theology concerned with *death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind*). God will reward and it's not a *this-worldly* reward for discipleship that Matthew is focusing upon.

PRAYER

God, we thank You for **allowing us** to be part of Your program in the earth. As Your disciples, **impress** upon our hearts Your desire to make an impact in the world and **convict** us when our motives are wrong. **Empower** us to sincerely live our lives for an audience of One - that being you. Keep us **focused on the bigger picture** so that we don't get **caught up** in ourselves. In Jesus name, Amen

Let's
Pray!