

The Sermon on the Mount
How to Give; Matthew 6:1-4

Background to Matthew 6:1

Good works, public recognition, private acts
Compared with Matthew 5:14-16

Matthew 6:1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Distinctive in two ways: Purpose and Type

Matthew 6:1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.”

Structure of Matthew 6:1-18

Giving to the Poor, Matthew 6:2-4

Praying, Matthew 6:5-15

Fasting, Matthew 6:16-18

Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 “So when you give to the poor...When you pray...Whenever you fast...”

Matthew 6:1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.”

The Spiritual Disciplines of Giving, Praying, and Fasting demonstrate a dependency upon God and a love for others

Matthew 6:2 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

Hypocrites: actor or pretender

Matthew 6 focuses on the distinction of outward religious acts for public display versus true acts of righteousness which occur out of a desire to honor God.

It calls believers to pursue authenticity in their worship and faith, seeking the approval of God rather than the approval of others.

Not the Way to Give: “It’s all about me” giving

Selfish giving is terminal; it lasts only as long as the good feelings last.

Matthew 6:3-4 “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

The Way to Give, Matthew 6:3-4

“It’s all about ministering to others and giving honor to God” giving

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Psalms 16:10-11 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Matthew 25:20-21 “The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”

Matthew 6:3-4 “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

God-centered giving is eternal; it lasts forever.