

Discussion Guide (Nate Boerman)
Message: Secret Service
April 14, 2024

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT): *Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. 2 When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. 3 But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. 4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

Galatians 1:10 (NLT): *Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.*

Matthew 5:16 (NIV): *Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 25:40 (NIV): *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS: Jesus gives us warnings for when we serve

- Done in secret
- Evaluate your motives
- Everyone has a variety of needs
- Don't neglect the "least of these"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Matthew 6:1-2.** Think about the last time you gave a gift or did a good deed. Did you make sure people noticed your deed? Did you receive recognition for the gift you gave? Would you still do the deed even if no one ever knew you did it?

2. **Read Matthew 6:3-4 and Galatians 1:10.** Why do you think Jesus warns us not to do our good deeds publicly, for the approval of people? What are some ways you can serve or give so that you are pleasing God rather than pleasing people?

3. **Read Matthew 5:16.** In this verse it says to let your deeds be seen, but what is the purpose for your deeds being seen by others? What is one practical way you can let your light shine for Jesus this next week? How can you make sure your deeds glorify your Father in heaven?

4. **Read Matthew 25:40.** Who are some of the "least of these" that cross your path every day? What are some of the needs that you notice around you that you can help meet? What is a gift or passion that you have that can help others in need around you? What is a good deed that you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to do?

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that you give us Your eyes for hurting people all around us. Please give us hearts of compassion for the broken hearted. Help us to love others like Jesus loves us. And help us give You the glory as we love and serve them. Amen