

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 10

Women of Grace|GraceLife Church

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. “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. 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. --Matthew 6:1-4

Day 1—Verse 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 6:1

1. Define beware (prosechō).
2. What does it look like to practice our righteousness before other people?
3. How can we beware of practicing our righteousness before others?

4. According to this verse, why should we not do righteous deeds so that others will notice them?

5. Why will those who do this have no reward from the Father?

6. Do outwardly righteous act indicate that someone is a Christian? Why or why not?

7. Read John 12:42-43. How does this passage add to your understanding of what Jesus is saying in Matthew 6?

Heart Check:

- Do you practice your deeds to be noticed by others? Do you get upset when others do not thank or honour you? When your family seems ungrateful for your service, how do you respond?
- Do you desire “showier” acts of service to be seen by others or are you content to work behind the scenes (including the silent, repetitive acts we do in our home)?

Day 2—Verse 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. --Matthew 6:2

1. Who in this verse is calling attention to the good deeds?
 - a. b. Why are they doing this?

2. Define hypocrite (hupokritēs).
 - a. What does Scripture tell us about hypocrites/hypocrisy?

3. What are some things that we do to display our righteousness?

4. What are some things that we can do to fight our tendency towards hypocrisy?

5. Does the praise of others mean that we are pleasing God with our actions? Why or why not?

6. What does it say about our hearts when we would rather have the praise of men than of God?

7. Why does God not reward man-pleasers?

Heart check:

- Are there any ways that you consider yourself more righteous than others on the basis of your good works?
- Which would you rather have: a reward on earth from men or a reward in heaven from God?

Day 3—Verse 3

But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, --Matthew 6:3

1. Jesus says “when you give” not “if you give”; why does He chose “when”?
2. Were the Pharisees generous men? Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. What does Jesus mean by “do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”?
4. What should be our motivation to serve others?
5. Is Jesus saying that we should never let anyone else know what we are doing when we serve others?

6. How do people violate this verse in our day?

7. How does understanding and applying Matthew 5:3-10 enable us to fulfill Jesus' command in 6:3?

Heart Check:

- When you give, do you wait for recognition?
- Do you want others to know all the charitable deeds you're involved in?
- A.B Bruce says, "We are to show when we are tempted to hide and hide when we are tempted to show." Are there any areas where you desire to hide?

Day 4—Verse 4

so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. --Matthew 6:4

1. Contrast Matthew 6:1-2 and Matthew 6: 3-4 (the hypocrite and the holy man).
2. How does God reward us for our righteous deeds?
3. What must we do if we desire the reward of the praise of people rather than a reward in heaven from God?
4. According to Matthew 15:8-9, what is the root of the hypocrisy described in Matthew 6?

5. What is the end of the hypocrite? See Matthew 24:51.
 - a. How does this motivate you to rid the weeds of hypocrisy from your own heart?
6. It might seem that Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:13-16 and Matthew 6:1-4 contradict each other; why is this not the case?
7. In your own words, what does Ephesians 2:10 teach us about our good works?
8. What attribute of God do you see in this verse?

Day 5 – A Lesson in Generosity

1. What do these verses teach us about generosity?

a. 2 Samuel 24:24

b. Proverbs 19:17

c. Luke 21:1-4

d. 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

e. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

f. Philippians 4:15-18

g. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

h. Hebrews 13:16

i. 1 John 3:17

2. What are major areas of giving we should be devoted to?

A. Does giving have to be purely money?

B. What do we do if we do not have money to give?

3. How can generosity combat selfishness and hypocrisy?

4. How is the early church an example of generosity and caring for one another? What can we learn from them?

Heart Check:

- Do you look for opportunities to fill needs and to be generous?
- Are you being faithful with the stewardship God has given you or do you tend to keep all your resources to yourself?

Dig Deeper:

1. Read the 3 booklets on Hypocrisy and Christian Sincerity:
<https://www.chapellibrary.org/search?input=hypocrisy>