



## 12: DOING IT WRONG? (Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18)

Have you ever done the *RIGHT* thing...for the *WRONG* reason?  
Today we discover why the *attitude* behind the *action* matters.

### beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register with our **CONNECT CARD**.

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## teachingnotes

### Doing It Wrong?

#### Good Works

##### Matthew 6:1-2 (NIV)

Be careful **not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them**. If you do, you will have **no reward from your Father in heaven**. So **when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others**. Truly I tell you, **they have received their reward in full**.

Your **reward** from God is forfeited when you do *the right thing for the wrong reason, to be seen by people*. Jesus expects His followers to **give to the needy, but NOT for the wrong reasons, to be honored by others**. Do not announce it with trumpets is a humorous hyperbole. Jesus calls these people **hypocrites** - *people who are pretending to be something or be someone they aren't* (Greek term used of actors who played multiple roles by putting on multiple masks). Jesus says **they have received their reward in full** - *the applause of people* - and that's where their reward ends.

✓ **The one who wants God to reward them** won't parade it on the streets or *post it on social media*.

#### Giving to Others with Humility, Love, and Sincerity

##### Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)

But **when you give to the needy**, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that **your giving may be in secret**. Then **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you**.

The **left hand/right hand** language is a *hyperbole*, an exaggeration to make a point. *What's the point?*

✶ **Kent Hughes** "The idea is, not only are we not to tell others of our giving—we are not to make a big deal of it to ourselves."<sup>1</sup>

✓ It's then that **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you**.

Jesus calls God **your Father** - your Creator, Provider, & Protector - the One who sees all you do and **will reward you!**

🕒 **During the same sermon** Jesus had said these words:

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

- It's not whether what we do *HAS BEEN SEEN* by others, but whether what we do is done *TO BE SEEN* by others.

#### The goal of good works is to honor our Father.

✓ Our good works done in public are to demonstrate *humility, love, and sincerity*.

✗ If we are doing it *TO BE SEEN by others*, **then we're doing it wrong**.

#### **BIG QUESTION: Do I seek the approval of God or the applause of people?**

<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount: The Message of the Kingdom, Preaching the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 147.

## Prayer

### Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

And **when you pray**, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But **when you pray**, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then **your Father**, who sees what is done in secret, **will reward you**. And **when you pray**, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for **your Father knows what you need before you ask Him**.

We see the point of the hypocrite's prayer: **to be seen by others**. Jesus again says that's *ALL* the **reward** they will get - *the applause of people*, but *not the approval of the Father*.

- Jesus is NOT saying we can never pray in public. *How do we know this? The early church, led by the apostles of Jesus, prayed in public*. The difference? They were praying *seeking the approval of God rather than the applause of people*.

**Jesus was not condemning public prayer, but prayer for the public. Remember WHO you are praying to.**

👁️ Join us on **Sunday, April 16** to hear teaching on *"The Lord's Prayer"*.

✗ You don't get God's attention because of your **many words** or a formula you follow.

✓ **God hears you because of the Father He is**. Your Father knows what you need, so just ask!

❓ You might be quick to lead prayer in public, but do you spend time praying in private?

**BIG QUESTION: Do I seek the approval of God or the applause of people?**

## Fasting

### Matthew 6:16-18 (NIV)

**When you fast**, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But **when you fast**, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you**.

**Fasting** is sacrificing time to eat *in order to pray*; going without food in order to seek God's Presence & God's answers. In fact, while fasting is not commanded it seems to be *expected*. **Do you have something serious to pray about?** Consider taking the time you would eat and spend it instead, spend it in prayer.

But **when you fast**, it should **not be obvious to others**. If it is, then the applause of other people is all the **reward** you will receive.

If you really want God to respond, keep your fast a secret. "And **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you**."

- God knows your needs. God knows your sincerity. **Your Father will reward you** by answering your prayer.
- **God will also reward you on the day you go to Him or the day He comes to you**. Unless...He is not your Father.

Once again, we need to answer THIS question:

**BIG QUESTION: Do I seek the approval of God or the applause of people?**

## FEET TO FAITH

✓ **Turn from sin and to Jesus** and be **adopted** by the **Father**.

✓ **Find a quiet place** and **talk to your Father**. Thank Him & ask Him for what you need.

✓ **Ask for opportunities** to **serve others** for **the glory of the Father**.

**NEXT SUNDAY - LOVE LOUD - 8:30am-1:30pm**. Sign up and help serve, in Jesus' Name!

Yard Work, Prayer Team, Nursing Home, Food Prep & Delivery, Clean Windshields, Flowers & Door Knocking, Childcare, Laundry Mat

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

# discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? (Look back in your notes to help explain your answer.)
2. **Read Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18.** Consider today's **BIG QUESTION: Do I seek the approval of God or the applause of people?** After reading our entire passage from today, why does answering this question sincerely matter so much?
3. **Read Matthew 5:16 & Acts 4:23-31.** How is it that Christians aren't disobeying Jesus by doing good deeds or praying in public? What attitudes help us make sure our actions and prayers are not out of bounds with what Jesus wants?
4. **Read Acts 13:2-3.** Many Christians have never practiced *fasting*. What was the outcome of the church in Antioch worshiping the Lord and fasting? Is there any special reason why you might consider fasting in the future?
5. *How do YOU plan to serve others during the LOVE LOUD event next Sunday?*
6. **PRAY** for God's opportunities and protection over His church this week. Then, share prayer needs & pray for one another.