

Christ-Followers are Charitable

Matt 6:1-4 - *Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

Vs. 1 - *Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

“charitable deeds” – “acts of righteousness”

****** This applies to the next three messages.

The Practice of Charity is Normal

Vs. 2 - *Therefore, when you do a charitable deed,*

******When you pray (vs 5) and when you fast (vs 16), so, charitable deeds, prayer, and fasting should be a “normal” part of our everyday life as Christ-followers.

Lev 25:35 - *If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.*

Heb 13:15-16 - *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

The Practice of Charity is Godly

Godly - *actions that reflect the character, love, and commands of God.*

Deut. 15:7 - *If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,*

Acts 20:35 - *I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*

The Practice of Charity is Private

Vs. 3-4a - *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret;*

Matt 5:16 - *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

The balance is found in the attitude of our heart. Who do we want to receive the glory? God, or ourselves?

The Practice of Charity brings Favor

Vs. 4 - *and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

Vs. 6 - *and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

Vs. 18 - *and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

Ps 41:1-3 - *Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. ² The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. ³ The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.*

Pro 19:17 - *He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.*

Luke 6:38 - *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

Matt 19:16-22 - *Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

If you are charitable, ask yourself, “*Why do I practice charity?*”

If you are not charitable, ask yourself, “*Why do I not practice charity?*”