

# Kingdom Foundations - Pt 2

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*Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 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. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

—Matthew 6:1-4

Where are we in Jesus's sermon? Jesus is addressing lifestyle foundations in the Kingdom of God and how to enter into the fullness of the Kingdom.

It's by God's grace that we've been saved and none of our works qualify us to enter the Kingdom of God. "The man on the middle cross said we could come".

Our actions and our choices in life effect our potential in the Kingdom and our rewards in the Kingdom. We can't do God's part, and God isn't going to do our part.

**V.1 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.**

Righteousness – Alms/Giving (time, talent, and treasure)

"First Mention" words in the New Testament: Beware, Reward, Father

Matthew 6:1 – Beware/ Focus On/Apply and attach yourself to this

There are 9 times Jesus tells us to "beware" in the gospels:

- Three times Jesus tells us to BEWARE of False teachers (men, false prophets and scribes) Matthew 7:15, Matthew 10:16-17 and Luke 20:46
- Three times Jesus tells us to BEWARE of False doctrines (yeast of the Pharisees) Matthew 16:6, Matthew 16:11 and Luke 12:1
- Three times Jesus tells us to BEWARE of Ourselves (wrong motives) Matthew 6:1, Luke 17:3 and Luke 21:34

***Jesus' caution:*** Don't live your life to impress other people, there's one opinion that really matters.

***Jesus' question:*** Who's approval do you really value? Who's opinion...

*Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.*

—Proverbs 29:25

**V.2 - Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.**

***Jesus' Caution:*** Don't live your life to receive the immediate reward, play the long game.

***Jesus' Question:*** Do eternal rewards carry the greatest value to you?

You can be in the Kingdom of God and believe in Jesus and yet still be gripped by the praise and approval of men. You can be in the Kingdom and yet your potential in the Kingdom can be severely limited.

*"The people saw all these miraculous signs Jesus did, but they still did not believe in him. But many people believed in Jesus. Even many of the Jewish leaders believed in him, but they were afraid of the Pharisees, so they did not say openly that they believed. They were afraid they would be*

*ordered to stay out of the synagogue. They loved praise from people more than praise from God.”*

*—John 12:37, 42,43*

Praise now or praise later?

Rewards now or rewards later?

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”*

*—1 Corinthians 9:24-27*

Jesus was encouraging us that in our giving/serving/lifestyle choices... don't run for the praise at the beginning of the race, run for the praise that comes at the end of the race!

**V.3,4 - 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. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

***Jesus' Encouragement:*** Build a secret life with God.

***Jesus' Question:*** Have you learned to serve the Father by yourself?

Here's the truth about our race:

- There's a lot of applause and energy at the start of the race.
- There's a lot of applause and energy at the finish of the race.
- But during the race, there are long stretches of solitude and silence where it feels like you're running by all by yourself.

And this is when it's easy to quit the values of the Kingdom when you realize that:

- No one is coming to make you do the right thing.
- No one is going to monitor your level of commitment.

- No one is cheering for us most of the time.

*“Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?”*

*—Proverbs 20:6*

Here’s more good news:

*“The eyes of the LORD go around looking in all the earth for people who are faithful to him so that he can make them strong.”*

*—2 Chronicles 16:9*

**Your Father who sees you still running will reward you.**

In a race that has many long stretches alone, it’s a joy to have other saints to run with. The life-support of being connected to a body and having people to run with!

**Ending thought:** You know that you’re in the secret place of serving and giving with Jesus when the Accuser’s voice tries to get you out of that place.