Slide 1: Matthew 6:1-4

Slide 2: Helping Those Who Are Searching

1. Manage your Motives (vs 1)

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” (vs 1)

“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be go od theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.” (vs 1 MSG)

slIDE 3: Helping Those Who Are Searching

2. Be Real (vs 2)

“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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.” (vs 2)

A hypocrite is a person who isn’t himself on Sunday - D.A Carson

Slide 4: Helping those Who Are Searching

3. God sees the generosity no one else sees (vs 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.”

Slide 5: Helping Those Who Are Searching:

4. Trade recognition now for reward later (vs 4)

- When we give and forget, God remembers and rewards.

“Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (vs 4)

Reward - used 3 times in 4 verses

Slide 6: Action Steps - Questions to ask:

1. Why do I serve and give….so God is honored, or so I am noticed?

2. Is there any area of my faith where I am more concerned with appearances than authenticity?

3. What is one act of generosity I can do this week that no one else needs to know about?

4. Am I willing to serve faithfully even when no one thanks me or recognizes me?

5. Whose approval matters more to me right now, people's or God's?

6. Is there someone in need that God has already placed in front of me that I have been overlooking?