

I. Jesus Releases A General Kingdom Principle (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.”

A. Think about your expressions of devotion - “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people...”

B. Consecrate your motives to God in all things - “...in order to be seen by them...”

C. Live, worship and serve with the finish line in mind - “...for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in Heaven.”

II. Jesus Checks Our Motives & Methods of Giving (2-4)

A. Jesus assumes all Christians give (2a) - “Thus, when you give to the needy...”

B. Jesus wants our giving to be without fanfare (2b) - “...sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.”

C. Jesus wants our giving to be anonymous (3-4a) - “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret.

D. Jesus reminds us again of rewards (2c, 4b) - “(2c) Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward... (4b) And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

II. Jesus Simplifies & Purifies Our Approach to Prayer (5-8)

A. Christians are praying people (5a) - “And when you pray...”

B. Christians are not parading people (5b) - “...you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

C. Christians pursue God’s presence (6) - “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

D. Christians should expect to mature in prayer (7-8) - “Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” **We pray from a place of trust and confidence that God knows and does what is best.**