

Doing Right Thing's for the Right Reason's

Lakewood Family Church | Pastor Jonathan L. Vorce | April 29, 2026

Matthew 6:1-4 NKJV

Introduction

- In Matthew chapter five, Jesus contrasted the “righteousness of the kingdom” with what the scribes and Pharisees were “**TEACHING**”.
- Now in chapter six, the contrast shifts to what they were “**PRACTICING**”.
- This entire chapter unfolds the “**Righteousness of the Kingdom**” as it relates to our relationship with God—especially in the everyday practice of righteous acts.
- Today we examine verses 1-4 and Jesus’ clear instruction on charitable deeds.
- Jesus is not forbidding good works before men (cf. **Matthew 5:16**) but doing them with the wrong motive—to receive praise from people rather than to please God.

I. The Overarching Principle for All Righteous Acts (**Matthew 6:1**)

A. The Clear Command

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.”

1. The NKJV follows manuscripts using “**eleemosunen**” (charitable deeds/ alms), the principle applies broadly to all righteous acts.

B. The Sobering Consequence

“Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

1. Good works are not wrong when done to glorify God; they become worthless when done to glorify self.

II. What Not to Do in Charitable Deeds (Matthew 6:2)

A. The Warning Against Play-Acting

“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.”

1. Hypocrites = “actors” whose only goal is to be honored by men.

B. The Tragic Reward They Receive

“Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

1. This is the very reason that some “sow” and do not receive what they perceive as their “harvest”.
 - a. Actually, they have already received their harvest... They got exactly what they wanted—the applause of men while forfeiting any reward from the Father in heaven, both now and forever.

III. The God-Honoring Way to Give – And the Reward That Follows (Matthew 6:3-4)

A. The Practice of True Secret Giving

“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”

1. This means avoiding not only the praise of others but self-praise as well.

B. What each hand represents.

1. The right hand represents the deed;
2. “The left hand represents your good opinion about the deed” (Lenski).
3. “Give so often that it becomes ‘second nature’ and you forget to congratulate yourself” (Hendriksen).

IV. **Jesus is not condemning public giving itself (cf. Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37), but the spirit that seeks publicity.**

“True Christian charity cares not how much men hear of public gifts nor how little they hear of private ones”.

A. The Father’s Reward

“...that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

1. This reward is experienced in part in this life (**Psalm 41:1-3**) and fully at the final judgment (**Ecclesiastes 12:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19**).

B. Living It Out

1. Before every gift or act of service, pause and ask: “Is this for God’s glory alone, or am I hoping for likes, thanks, or recognition?”
2. Choose anonymity whenever possible—use church benevolence funds, online “give anonymously” options, or quiet drop-offs with no name attached.
3. Refuse to post photos, stories, or updates about your giving or service on social media, in group chats, or casual conversations.
4. Make generosity so habitual that you give without needing to replay the act in your mind or tell others about it.
5. Support your local church, missionaries, and community needs consistently and privately, without expecting plaques, announcements, or public credit.
6. In everyday settings (work, neighborhood, family), serve quietly—help a neighbor, provide for a need, or bless someone without broadcasting it.
7. Train your children or household through family “secret giving” challenges where the only audience is the Lord.
8. In professional or community roles, perform acts of kindness without leveraging them for advancement, reputation, or business gain.

Conclusion

- Jesus assumes His followers will practice charitable deeds (cf. **Matthew 5:42**).
- The real issue is never “whether” we give, but “why” and “how” we give.
- Christians blessed with resources are charged to be “rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (**1 Timothy 6:17-19** NKJV).
- True kingdom righteousness flows from a heart that desires the Father’s “Well done” far more than the world’s applause.

Call to Action

- This week, intentionally plan and carry out at least one completely secret act of charity known only to you and the Lord.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart and reveal any impure motives hidden in your giving or serving.
- If you have given for show in the past, repent today and begin the joyful practice of secret giving.
- Commit as a church family to increase our support of benevolence and missions with humble, God-centered hearts.
- Leave here determined that every good deed will be done for the eyes of the Father who sees in secret and rewards openly.