

Sermon Study

June 30, 2019

Giving
Mathew 6:1-4

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

The first spiritual practice Jesus teaches on is giving. Believe it or not, when the wealthy came to the temple to place their gifts in the treasury, they would often announce it with trumpets so that others would know how much they were giving. This may be where the phrase "tooting your own horn" originated, and it was something Jesus said was a hindrance to spiritual growth. Instead, he encouraged a more discreet and even secretive giving that focused on the heart of the giver and his generosity towards God. This is not a prohibition from sharing what we give so that others are inspired, but rather a humble heart that does not seek the praise of others. Kingdom giving is for God, and God alone.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

If a long-lost relative left you an inheritance of \$1 Million with instructions to "give it away to the needy," how would you decide where to give it? Would you desire to have your name attached to the gift?

Go
(your group on mission)

Consider a group trip to a place you know needs are abundant in an effort to understand the needs of our neighborhoods, communities, and institutions better.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Pray for God to reveal Himself through His Word.

Read Matthew 6:1-4 out loud:

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ 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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Discussion

1. What does this text say about the character of God?
2. Giving is good – and having your giving appreciated is good – so what causes giving to go from good to unrewarded pride?
3. How do we encourage one another’s generosity without stoking the flames of pride?

4. The challenge seems to be from whom we seek rewards. The applause of man feels good – and isn’t always bad – but Jesus is clearly telling us the better reward is to be rewarded by God for your humble motive, even above the gift itself.

- ♦ Why do we wrestle with this teaching?
- ♦ Share a time when you did give “quietly” only to please God in an act of obedience. Describe the sense of satisfaction in such a time that goes deeper than human appreciation.

5. Reflect on God’s generosity. How has He given to you when you had a need? How has He permanently overcome the needs of a broken world?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Spend time as a group discussing how you might anonymously bless someone this week.