

**“When You Give”
Matthew 6:1-4
Sunday June 25, 2017**

There are at least **2,350 passages** in the Bible dealing with money and material possessions. That’s more than on any other subject.

Of **38 Parables of Jesus**, 12 have to do with money; God-given resources; our use of material goods.

In the 4 gospels, 1 out of every 8 verses speak of money.

The Epistle to the Philippians is a thank you note for giving an offering. 2 Corinthians has 2 chapters dedicated to giving, **2 Corinthians 8-9**.

Matthew 6:1-18 – The Christian’s Devotion Before God.

1. Christian and Giving – Verses 1-4
2. Christian and Prayer – Verses 5-15
3. Christian and Fasting – Verses 16-18

Jesus is coming against the hypocrisy of the religious leader’s devotion to God.

Hypocrisy is referred to 3 times:

1. Hypocrisy in Giving – Verse 2
2. Hypocrisy in Praying – Verse 5
3. Hypocrisy in Fasting – Verse 16

Thought Of Our Passage: “If Our Giving Is Not God-Centered, It Can Result In A Show In Which There Will Be No Reward.”

1. Verse 1 – Warning To Givers

2. Verse 2 – Motive For Giving

3. Verses 3-4 – Approach To Giving

1. Verse 1 – Warning To Givers:

Matthew 6:1 – “Beware” – “to bring to, bring near, to turn the mind to, to be attentive.”

Disciple – is “a follower of the teacher and His teaching.”

“of practicing your righteousness” – speaks of outward righteous deeds – The term “alms” that is used by the KJV instead of “righteousness” limits our deeds to just giving, but includes much more than giving.

Matthew 6:1 – The Key Verse of this section: Jesus is speaking about our devotion; our righteousness that is unto the Lord, 1 John 2:29.

“before men to be noticed by them;” – “seen by, to gaze at, to look at.” Literally, “show.”

There Appears To Be An Apparent Contradiction To What Jesus Previously Said: Matthew 5:16.

Matthew 5:15

“otherwise you have no reward” – The Bible teaches rewards to the faithful child of God. Matthew 6:4 – “in secret will reward you.”

2 Corinthians 5:10

Colossians 3:23-24

“with your Father who is in heaven.” – “Your Father” is repeated 9X: Verses 1, 4, 6 (twice), 8, 14, 15, 18 (twice). Jesus wants us to know we need to have an intimate relationship with Him – Him alone.

The Source of Charity Is A New Birth: a relationship with Jesus; that we live this new life and charity.

“True Conversion involves the conversion of the heart and the wallet.”

When we give to God it does several things:

- 1. Giving To God Breaks Human Self-Centeredness.**
- 2. Through Giving, We Are Becoming Extensions/Channels Of God.**

God Taught Israel To Be Charitable And Compassionate Towards The Poor, Psalm 41:1.

Proverbs 19:17; Proverbs 29:7

2. Verse 2 – Motive For Giving:

Matthew 6:2

“So when you give to the poor,” – Note that He does not say, “So if you give to the poor” But “So when you give to the poor!” The child of God is going to give.

“give to the poor,” – alms: means “a deed of mercy or pity.” The Bible does not separate righteousness from generosity.

Deuteronomy 15:11

Giving Starts With Being Given To God.

1, 2 Corinthians speak about the giving of the believers of Philippi, Philippians 4:16-17.

Galatians 2:10

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Giving Is An Act Of Worship!

Don't Blow Your Own Horn About Your Giving: “do not sound a trumpet before you,” – Metaphorical?

“as the hypocrites” – “actors, one who plays a part,” Literally “to speak from underneath.” It came from the Greek play actors that would wear masks and speak and their voices would come from underneath the mask.

“so that they may be honored by men.” – When our focus is to be that of people, we will receive all that man has to offer; not giving for the glory of God, or the benefit of man.

God Is Concerned About Attitudes (The Heart) and Actions: “Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.” – “Reward in full” – technical term meaning “payment in full, to give a receipt”; Completely paid for.

Man's praise is all we will receive, we are not giving but buying (buying praise!), and we got what we paid for.

We Must Be Spiritual In Our Giving: Galatians 6:7-8.

We use this passage so often as Christians, about sowing and reaping of sin. Note the context of this passage, which is speaking about spiritual giving.

Galatians 6:6-8 – Paul is saying that sowing to the flesh is spending all your resources on yourself, on self; it is the flesh versus the Spirit.

Galatians 6:9-10

3. Verses 3-4 – Approach To Giving:

Matthew 6:3

“But when you give to the poor,” – We as followers of God are not to be like them (Hypocrites).

Don't Be Self-Conscious About Your Giving: “do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”

Matthew 6:4 – “so that your giving will be in secret;” – secret because it is done only for Him to see.

Our Giving Is To Be Sacrificial: 2 Corinthians 8:9.

I believe that the NT teaches “Grace Giving.” The OT (Israel) was to Tithe – 10% along with other offerings they gave as much as 30% – 35% to God.
1 Corinthians 16:2

Malachi 3:10

Luke 6:38

Application:

1. Giving Is Not A One-Time Gift, Nor An Occasional Gift, But A Lifestyle. When God Has Our Heart, He Also Has Our Wallet.
2. When Instruction On Giving Is Presented Biblically, No Christian Should Ever Be Resentful. Being Resentful Reveals A Heart Issue.
3. Am I Giving To God What Is Rightfully His? Matthew 22:21
4. Tithing Is An Old Testament Teaching For Israel. The Christian Is Under Grace. Because Of Grace, The Believer Is Liberated And Can Give Beyond The OT Giver.