

Sermon Notes – 01.22.2023 – The Commands of Jesus – Give to Please God, Not to be Seen

Matthew 6:1-4 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them;"

We are supposed to "practice...righteousness"

1 John 3:7-8 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

We Must Not Do Good Things to Get Noticed

- How Much of Our Lives do We Live, Hoping to be Noticed by People?
- Motive: What causes us to do what we do what we do?

Jesus points us to the highest reason – That we might be children of Our Father in Heaven.

The Big Choices

Noticed by God or by People

Noticed Here or Known There

Rewarded by People Now or by God Now and In His Presence

Psalms 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Revelation 22:12-13 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

"When you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you,
...so that they may be honored by men.

How we behave in public shows how much we desire to be approved by people

- How we behave in private when no one is watching? – That's another thing
 - Compulsion to be "good" or a desire to please God
 - So private my left hand doesn't know what my right hand is doing –
 - The joy of secret giving, serving
 - Righteousness when the only audience is God

Rewards and No Reward

No reward from your Father in Heaven / Having your reward in full (Here)

1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you (KJV "openly")

1 Corinthians 3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. **14** If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

Do I have a Heart for God? Jesus Keeps Brining Us Back to the Question of Our Heart

The Condition of My Heart Very Qickly Becomes the Condition of My Life

Matthew 6:19-24 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.