

## **Authentic Giving**

### **Matthew 6:1-4**

Chapter 6 discusses several topics of great interest in the world.

First, Jesus addresses religion.

Second, Jesus distinguishes Christianity. Islam demands works are done publicly. Buddhism and Hinduism calls for public charity to provoke good karma. Judaism wrought with hypocrisy

Nadab and Abihu; Eli and His sons

Third, Jesus explains the nature of hypocrisy.

Sex scandals, money grabbing charlatans, those who love the praise of men

Jesus loves authenticity. Story of Job.

It should not surprise us to find Him teaching on authentic giving, praying and fasting.

Every religion has these as practices.

#### **1. Prohibitions for authentic giving**

all about the motivation

##### **\*avoid the notoriety of people**

“Sound the trumpet”

hypocritical giving is known for seeking one reward - to be seen of men

do not give to be noticed - the story of Jeff Dial and the little church in Manilla Arkansas

##### **\*avoid the publicity of charity**

charitable giving draws attention

Campaign issue

Al Gore's charity; Bill Clinton

Community issue

Tiger Woods invested nothing in the Orlando community as far as charitable endeavors - The Orlando Sentinel ran an editorial piece in March 22, 2012 about Tiger's 15 years in our city.

Church issue - in my home town I drive by two churches going from my parents house to main street - both nice beautiful Baptist buildings - each built from the moneys from a prominent

family in the church

Hollifield has reportedly given \$20 million to his church - Creflo Dollar pastors

**\*avoid the hypocrisy of religion**

religion attracts hypocrites

religion is designed to look spiritual, look authentic

Jesus came and diminished all of that

**2. Admonitions for authentic giving**

**\*give**

-tithes and offerings

do not let the peril prevent you from giving

giving is such a joy

giving is such a vital part of the Christian experience

**Luke 12:33: "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys."**

**Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."**

giving is such a pleasure to Jesus

-whatever giving that you are going to do you have to do it now - be no giving after death

-Giving deepens your faith - start to tithe and see what happens - This morning a lady gave me a testimony

**\*attempt privacy**

let it be up to others to recognize you for something good that you have done

the Apostles recognized Barnabas

taking the tax advantage is a good thing

**1 Cor. 16:1-2: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."**

**\*Focus on the Father when you give**

He sees it all

Jesus and the widows mite; Haggai's days - consider your ways

He gives the reward after death

**Jim Elliot's famous words, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."**

We focus on his willingness to sacrifice and serve, but we neglect his passion for personal gain.....What separated him from the common Christian wasn't that he didn't want treasure, but that he wanted true and lasting treasure. He wasn't satisfied with treasure that would be lost, only treasure that would last.

Christ's position on wealth is not that it should be rejected, but that it should be pursued.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 95.