

Gospel of Matthew “Secret Reward”
Matthew 6:1-8
June 5, 2022

Matthew 6:1-8

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 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. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 5:16

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

“Give” - Any good deed intended to serve others such as charity, social justice, giving money and helping the poor.

“Trumpets.”

It is easy to fall into the place of “wanting to be thought well of.”

The praise of yourself.

“The question is not so much what the hand is doing but what the heart is doing as the hand is doing it.”

“Room” or “supply room.”

Matthew 6:7-8

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Many words” attacks the idea that there must be *much* of it before it works.

Luke 11:5-9

5 And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. 9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

It isn't your persistence that bends God's ear, God is already bent as "Father."

God doesn't require much from us before we can have much of Him.

"The proper rewards are not simply tacked on to the activity for which they are given, but are the activity itself in consummation." - C.S. Lewis

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- How can "religious success" be cautionary for the Christian?
- How do you apply both "letting your light shine before men so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father" (Matthew 5:16) and "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be seen." (Matthew 6:1)?
- Can you share an experience in which giving and charity became more about the giver and their reputation than the need he or she was meeting?
- How are Christians meant to understand the fact that God knows what we do in secret? Is that a fearful or freeing idea for you?
- How are we to be encouraged by the Jesus' reminder that God is ready and desires to reward us? What might these rewards be? How might these rewards be better than the praise of men?
- Can your Grow Group encourage one another week by week by applying this passage?