

RIGHTEOUS GIVING

A RIGHTEOUSNESS BEYOND “BEING” GOOD

- **Matt.4:23 – “And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.”**
- **Matt.5:20 - “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”**
- **Matt.5:17-48 is about how the Christian relates to the law of God and thereby to others**

LIVING MY LIFE BEFORE GOD

- **Matt.6:1 - “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.”**
- **Matt.6 is a picture of the Christian living his life in this world, in the presence of God in active submission to God. There are two parts:**
 - **1. How do I live my religious life? – 6:1-18**
 - **2. What am I trusting in for this life? 6:19-34**

A RIGHTEOUS LIFE BEFORE GOD

- **Heb. 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**
- **A life lived before God:**
 - 1. Must be lived in faith in God alone**
 - 2. Walked in Faith will be rewarded by God**
- **As I live my life before the audience of ONE, counter-culture to today's society of trusting self and money, God will generously reward us for and with eternity**

SELF PROMOTION GIVING

- I get the idea I am to be a person of love to others, (5:17-48) so I will show others what a nice person I am
- **When** you give to the needy. 6:1
- **What is the assumption?**
- **How do you give?**
- **If you give in such a way to get the praise of people, you have your reward. You get zero credit with God.**
- **People give to get their names on a building.**
- **Tougher to get people to endow maintenance.**

RIGHTEOUS GIVING

- **How do we give so the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing? 6:3**
- **Can we consciously ignore what one hand is doing?**
- **It is like driving a standard transmission vehicle**
- **Are we the kind of people who have been so transformed in our daily walk with God that good deeds naturally flow from our character?**
- **These are the kind of people whose left hand would not notice what their right hand is doing, because it is second nature. You don't "think" about it. You just do it!**

RIGHTEOUS GIVING

- **Are we people who naturally go the second mile or give to one who asks of you. Not for the praise of people, but because it is who you are.**
- **One who loves others as Jesus loves them. One who seeks reconciliation rather than anger. Sees the true beauty of a woman not sexually coveting her. Loves not divorce. Speaks truth in love. Would rather be hurt again than retaliate. Loves those intentionally trying to destroy you. Joyfully gives when asked for something.**

RIGHTEOUS GIVING

- **It is seeking the Praise of the Father through quietly serving and loving.**
- **It is having our minds transformed by the word of God so that we understand the values and purposes of God**
- **It is asking the Holy Spirit to remind us of His way as we come into the circumstance**
- **It is learning to walk in the Spirit, to hear and respond to His promptings.**
- **It is learning to Think, Act and Love like Jesus!**