



Title: Doing Right Wrong

Date: April 24, 2022

Scripture Text: Matthew 6:1-4

Sermon Series: Inside-Out

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We jump back into the Sermon on the Mount this week, picking up in Matthew chapter 6. We transition from the relational issues Jesus addressed in chapter 5 to the fundamental issue that had plagued Jewish religious practices of the day which was HYPOCRISY. The religious leaders were more interested in their outward, pious appearance than having a pure heart for God. Jesus is disgusted by hypocrisy and addresses the matter directly in Matthew [23:23](#), [25](#), [27](#), & [33](#). Let's take a look at two keys to avoid hypocrisy in our giving.

### I. Live to Glorify God (Matt. 6:1)

Earlier in His sermon, Jesus encourages His listeners to be salt and light so that glory can be given to the Father who is in heaven ([Matt 5:13-16](#)). Practicing acts of righteousness to get the attention of others is to draw the glory from God to ourselves. It's a matter of motivation. Are we motivated to receive recognition from others or for God to get the glory? If it's the former, then we have received our reward and we will have no reward from God.

- What are examples of *acts of righteousness* to be practiced?
- What might motivate someone to do these acts of righteousness for personal recognition?
- How can you be an encourager of another believer's acts of righteousness while still giving glory to God?
- Describe a time when you were practicing acts of righteousness, but it was for your own recognition/reward.
  - What was the result?
  - How long did the recognition/reward last?
- When Jesus speaks of a reward from the Father in heaven, what is that?
  - How long will that reward last?
- What can you do to be more motivated for your actions to direct attention to God and not yourself?

## Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

850.878.5503

office@morningsidetlh.org

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### II. Give to Glorify God ([Matt. 6:2-4](#))

Jesus gives the first example of an act of righteousness: giving. Giving is the only command God gives where He encourages believers to test Him ([Mal. 3:10](#)). Jesus gives us additional instructions when it comes to giving. As with any act of righteousness we are not to draw attention to our giving, which voids any reward we may get from God. We are to give secretly and our Father who sees what is done in secret will reward us.

- What did Jesus mean when He said “do not sound a trumpet” when you give (vs. 2)?
- What is meant by “do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (vs. 3)?
- Read [Malachi 3:10](#). What rewards are listed there?
- How do acts of hypocrisy affect the church?
- When was a time when you gave secretly, and God rewarded you?

The word hypocrites (Greek *hupocritēs*) originally referred to actors who performed in Greek or Roman theaters. The hypocrites whom Jesus referred to are spiritual actors who pretend to have piety in order to win human approval.

“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”

— Brennan Manning