



In today's passage, we see Jesus teaching the nature of true righteousness and the motives behind our actions. In these verses, He cautions us against practicing our righteousness for public recognition. Instead, he instructs us to demonstrate a sincere, private devotion that seeks only God's approval. Our study today leads us to consider the nuances of Jesus' instruction, exploring the dangers of hypocrisy and the importance of our intentions regarding our acts of kindness.

Key Passage: Matthew 6:1-4

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of acts is Jesus referring to in these verses? What motives is Jesus warning us against?
2. What are the implications of Jesus' words, "when you give to the needy?" What does a lack of generosity say about a Christian?
3. What can we learn about generosity from 2 Corinthians 8:2-5 and 9:7?
4. When it comes to giving, what does it mean when Jesus says, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing? How is this command a means for guarding our hearts against pride?
5. How does Jesus' warning in today's passage compare to His command to let our light shine so that others can see our good works (Matthew 5:15-16)?
6. How could you be tempted to intentionally demonstrate your righteousness in front of others in your workplace, among your friend group, or at church? Why does Jesus call those who draw attention to their good works hypocrites? What role does social media play as a temptation to show off our good works?
7. What faith practices might we be tempted to turn into a performance for others? Why is seeking recognition from others such a danger to our spiritual health?
8. Why would someone who intentionally practiced their good deeds, even though it was from the wrong motivation, receive no reward from God? Isn't giving still a good thing to do?