

## Flipped: The Upside Down Kingdom (Giving)

Andy Deane · 10/15/2023 · Matthew 6:1-4

Over the next two week Jesus will give us 3 practical tools to help us grow, and prove to ourselves, our faith in our invisible God. If we really believe in Him, decisions will be made, that make no sense unless He is real!

### IN GIVING: Be Careful (Your Reward is on the Line)

1 *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

- It’s a caution: you won’t be punished, but you’ll sure miss out.
- The next few verses explore two questions:
  - Who do you want to be seen by?
  - Who do you want to reward you?

### IN GIVING: Be Hypocritical (& You’re Rewarded by People)

2 *“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.*

- Jesus mocks how public Pharisees wanted giving to be. Since God is merciful & kind, His followers will be too.
- To be healthy spiritually: ask yourself why you want to be seen:
  - Are you seeking the praise of people?
  - Are you staying anonymous but quietly congratulating self?
  - Are you wanting the approval of God alone?
- Why we give can teach us about our relationship with God.
- Hypocritical giving is distorted because giving should be about meeting a real need for a real person, and we’re making it about our need for applause!

### IN GIVING: Be Secretive (& You’re Rewarded by God)

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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

- Not only are we not to tell others about our giving; there is a sense in which we are not even to tell ourselves. Christian giving is: sacrificial, forgetful, not self-congratulatory. Practicing secret giving:
  - Helps your heart heal from the sin of pride!
  - Builds faith in the invisible God (if He’s real, we’ll be ok with Him being the only person who knows!)
  - Leads to God Himself rewarding you!

### IN GIVING: Be Generous (Because Jesus Gave it All)

- We receive what God has given us with thankfulness, and then offer some of it back to Him as an act of worship.
- Churchgoers today give less on average than during the Great Depression (2.5% now, 3.3% during depression).
- Malachi 3:8-12, 8 *“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*
- We believe the only way we can truly give joyfully is when we remember God’s generosity to us through Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6, *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, & who sows generously will reap generously.*
- 2 Corinthians 9:7, *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

### IN GIVING: Take a step of faith:

- Take a FIRST step: start giving occasionally (give for the first time at Cornerstone)
- Take a NEXT step: start giving consistently (automate it using our app or website)
- Take a BIG step: start giving sacrificially (10% — or more if you want to out-give the Old Testament saints)

### HOW?

- (1) Church App
- (2) Text 84321 the \$ amount you’d like to give (ex. \$100),
- (3) Visit [www.go2cornerstone.com/give](http://www.go2cornerstone.com/give)
- (4) Envelopes