

## 2/25/2024—Matthew 6:1-4—Giving from the Heart

### **I. Context**

- a. V. 1 introduces the next series of teachings—*Matthew 6:1-18*
- b. The private motive is more important than the public activity
- c. Chapter 5 addressed personal moral choices; 6:1-18 addresses specifics in worship
- d. Tithe (10%) was part of the Old Testament law (*Num. 18:28, Lev. 27:30*)

### **II. Giving to the Needy**

- a. Poverty was widespread in Jesus' day (specifically in his region)
- b. Anyone following God would recognize the need to be faithful in giving
  - i. Note: giving is assume (*when you give..., not if you give...*)
- c. First question to ask oneself: do I freely give in order to help those in need?

### **III. How you are not to give**

- a. Trumpets were used to draw attention in order to announce something
  - i. Modern paraphrase: *don't toot your own horn.*
- b. Hypocrites—Greek word originally used for actors on a stage who put on different masks to play different roles—In Jesus' context it conveys not being authentic
- c. The hypocrisy is doing the right things for the wrong reasons

### **IV. They have received their reward in full**

- a. They have already been honored by the people and the religious establishment
- b. They receive no reward from God

### **V. Secret giving**

- a. Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; don't even praise yourself
  - i. Our hearts should be so pure that there is little self-awareness
- b. Generosity should flow from one's heart—one is eager to give in order to help others and please God
- c. Check your heart, why do you give?
  - i. If you're stingy in giving, money may be your idol; if you're giving for attention, personal glory may be your idol
- d. Our giving should be an overflow of one's faith in Christ (c.f. *2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:1-15*)
- e. A great way to think about giving is that you are partnering with someone in Christ's kingdom work (this has a profound affect on your attitude)
- f. Giving and the gospel—we humbly give in response as Christ gave himself fully to us