

You can not out give God. Jacob was a cheat and He gave 10%. Zacchaeus was a swindler and he gave 50%. The widow of Mark 12:44 gave all that she had. The issue is not how much to give: but the heart of the giver.

7. How does the promise of Proverbs 11:24 relate to giving?
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RIGHT GIVING

Jesus expected His followers to continue the practice of giving. Today, Christians give to support the work of the Lord, and also help many charities. Our tithe belongs in the local storehouse. Our “alms” can be given anywhere as we feel the Holy Spirit leading us.

8. What is the promise found in 2Cor. 9:8, and what is it's context?
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Amen.

LIVING DIFFERENTLY

Part Two

This second series of studies on the remainder of the Beatitudes is designed to show us how Christ expects us to live. We have already seen that if the world lived by the standards of Christ, our societies would be radically different. While our societies may not corporately change, we as individuals can. This is what Christ expects. He not only prescribes how we should change, but He also gives us the supernatural power to do so.

OUR SECRET LIFE WITH GOD

Read Matthew 6:1-4



Having dealt with some of the external issues of life, and our attitudes toward them, Christ now turns His attention to those things that are in our hearts. He will later say that the mouth only speaks what's in the heart, and our actions are similarly determined by what is in our hearts as well.

There were three pillars of religious duty in the Jewish faith. The first was giving, the second was praying and the third was fasting. Each of these were meant to be a secret act. But the Pharisees had transformed them into pious shows. Jesus condemned this.

SECRET GIVING

Jesus said in Matthew 6:2, “*when you give...*”. He expected His followers to be givers. The average Jew gave in two fashions. Firstly, he tithed (10% of his income). This type of giving was compulsory. Secondly, he gave alms (voluntary giving). Nicky Gumble says in his book *Challenging Lifestyle* that a devout Jew would give away at least one sixth of his income (pg. 133).

1. To grow as a Christian, is it important to give?

The Pharisees gave quite publicly. Jesus suggests that some even had trumpeters go ahead of them to announce to the world that giving was about to take place. Giving was considered to be “*the most sacred of all duties*” for the Jew according to Gumble.

2. How are we told *not* to give according to what Jesus said in Matthew 6:2?

As a pastor, I don't like to know how much people are giving to the LORD and I especially don't appreciate people making reference to their tithing when asking the church to do something for them. Our giving must be an act of personal commitment to the LORD. It should be secret.

3. What did Jesus say would be the result of secret giving to God and others? (Matthew 6:4)

For those who seek to let others know about their giving, the only reward they get is from men. This is despite the principle that giving brings the blessing of God.

4. In referencing to giving alms, what promise is contained in Proverbs 19:17?

Yet if we boast about our giving, we lose our reward from God (Matthew 6:1).

5. Apart from secret giving, what kind of giving does God love? (2Cor. 9:7)

Jesus said that our left hands shouldn't know what our right hands are doing. So natural, and without drawn out consideration, should our giving be, that do it without even realising it.

THE REWARDS OF GIVING

Read 2Corinthians 9:6-15

6. List some of the rewards mentioned in this passage-

*There was a man,
They called him mad,
The more he gave,
The more he had.
(John Bunyan)*