



Don't Be a Hypocrite

By Ken Terry on April 9, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Matthew 6

There is much to be shared from this passage in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus' famous teaching of the Lord's Prayer is here. However, what stands out to me is Jesus' rebuke in this chapter. He starts it off, *"Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 6:1, NLT).

Watch out indeed!! So many self-professed Christians will do religious things, say religious things, and promote religious things when there is an audience. They seem to come alive with spiritual purpose, but all these things are just that--things. They are fruitless renderings of people trying to justify their self-righteous worthiness before men. Jesus gives us an excellent example of such hypocrites; *"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward"* (Matthew 6:2, NKJV).

Therefore, any charitable deed that is done by followers of Christ Jesus should be done for the purpose of serving our fellow brother or sister in need. We should focus on the individual and not the deed itself. This may be difficult, but allow Jesus to clarify, *"But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly"* (Matthew 6:3-4, NKJV).

The only person we should be trying to please is the Father Himself. I also enjoyed the passage regarding fasting. You see, the hypocrites in Jesus' day put on a show. They marked up their faces with ash and set a look upon their faces as if in pain from the religious observance placed upon them. HYPOCRITES!! These individuals piously performed before men to get affirmations for their self-righteous behavior. Please listen to Jesus' response to those fasting; *"But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly"* (Matthew 6:17-18).

My friends, there is a lot to discern in this 6th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, and it is my hope that you will mine it for all its treasures. What I want to leave you with today is, it does not matter as much what you do or when you do it, but that you do it all to the glory of God. For He and He alone knows the motivation of your heart and will reward all those who put forth a genuine effort to please Him. Also remember hypocrites will get their rewards here on earth and followers of Christ will get their reward in Heaven with Jesus. Let me leave you with these faith-filled words from the Master; *"But seek first the kingdom*

of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, NKJV).

PRAYER: Our Father in heavens, we thank You for our time in Your Word today. We thank You for its wealth of information that helps us to live as Christ. Father, we ask that You please continue to allow Your Holy Spirit to lead us in all things Jesus. We ask You to continue to transform us into His beautiful image. We ask these things in the matchless name of Christ Jesus our Lord, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 14

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