

Attention Getters! March 2nd & 3rd, 2013

Matthew 6:1-6

Three points to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:1-6

1. Action

“...when you give to the needy” and “...when you pray”.

- ❖ God's Word directs us to give to the poor and needy.

Proverbs 14:31 “Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.”

Mark 14:7 “For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.”

1 John 3:17 “But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”

- ❖ God's Word directs us to pray.

Colossians 4:2 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Romans 12:12 “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Philippians 4:6 “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

2. Motivation

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them”

- ❖ Jesus is addressing the motivation of the heart.

↳ Why are we giving or praying?

- ◆ Does our giving or praying flow from a close relationship with Jesus or a religious duty?
- ◆ Whose attention are we gaining?
- ◆ Attention can be positive or negative.

↳ Why do we want attention?

- ◆ Desire for human affirmation
- ◆ Desire for acceptance
- ◆ Desire for recognition

- ❖ Jesus said, “beware” which is a warning!

Beware: “to guard, defend, restrain, prohibit, fortify, be cautious ... Literally, to restrain or guard one's self from.”¹

↳ Jesus warns us because the desire for attention is a natural tendency in all of us!

3. Results

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

“... your giving may be in secret ... pray to your Father who is in secret ... your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

*Reward: “(verb) to give in return ... (noun) Recompense, or equivalent return for good done,...”*¹

↪ When we serve God, we will be rewarded!

Psalm 18:24 “So the Lord has rewarded me ...”

Proverbs 13:13,21 “...he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. ... the righteous are rewarded with good.

Proverbs 25:21-22 “If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”

Matthew 5:12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven, ...”

Colossians 3:23-24 “... knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Hebrews 10:35 “Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.”

Hebrews 11:6,26 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. ... [Moses] considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.”

1 Samuel 16:7

*“... For the Lord sees not as man sees:
man looks on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.”*

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.