

### *Giving an Extravagant Response in the Secret Place*

#### I. THE ETERNAL WAY OF LOVE

*17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18... For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor 2:17-18)*

*13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13)*

- A. We want to do the things that last. To be preoccupied with the unseen eternal things. Faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these being love, are the virtues that remain.

*9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10)*

- B. To be well pleasing to Him: As believers, it is our privilege to give the Lord the response He desires in each season of life. It is our aim and pleasure to bring Him pleasure. John Piper says, in His book, *Desiring God*, “the chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever” and “God is most glorified when we are most satisfied”.

- C. Do we want to be impressive before men or well pleasing to God? So much of our internal struggle has to do with chasing the applause and approval of men. We do this in part because we try to satisfy a longing put within us, by our creator, but we seek to satisfy this longing in an out of bounds way. We long for greatness. This longing was put in us by God to drive us to Him. It will not work to get this longing met in any other way other than experiencing the smile of God upon our hearts.

*12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor 3:12-14)*

- D. What sort it is: The sort of work is determined by the motive of the one doing the work not so much the external action of the work. The judgement seat conversation, we will all have with Jesus, will revolve around, *why* did you do what you did not *what* did you do?

- E. The Lord in His kindness and perfect leadership gives us opportunities to realign our motive. The way our motive gets refined is through the pressures and disappointments of life. Our anger and disillusionment is often an indicator to us that we “signed up” for the wrong outcome.

## II. LOVING IN THE SECRET PLACE

*1 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 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. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. (Mt 6:1-4)*

- A. **Take Heed:** Jesus instructs us to “take heed” that is to be vigilant, to pay careful attention to, to be cautious, or be on guard. He warns us of the subtlety of our own propensity for the craving of the praise of man.
- B. To the heart that wants to be well pleasing to the Lord and live before the audience of one to be “seen by men,” is a burden of service not something to be sought after.
- C. **Sound(ing) a trumpet:** - To virtue signal by any means necessary. There are many ways and expression to sound a trumpet and they all have to do with the motive of attaining “glory from men.”
- D. **In secret:** A dimension of the the secret place is the inner life. The extravagant response the Lord desires is the cultivation of the secret place for an entire life.
- E. **The Father who sees:** We want to live as though He sees and is an eager rewarder to those who love Him. He is proactive in finding our small, yet sincere, demonstrations of love so He can acknowledge and reward.

## III. THE EAGER REWARDER - DAILY OPPORTUNITY TO STORE UP TREASURE

*42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. (Mt 10:42)*

*40 ...assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me. (Mt 25:40)*

- A. The Fathers record keeping ability far surpasses the best of best of book keepers the world has to offer. Every tear shed is stored in a bottle for it is dear to His heart. Nothing goes unnoticed or unaccounted for.
- B. Our Father is a generous and eager rewarder to those who love Him. The exchange rate for the treasure we store in Heaven is heavily weighted in our favor. The father is looking forward to the day where He can demonstrate, in the open, that He truly is the Father who sees.