
The Power Of The Gift, Part II (Secret Gifts, Open Rewards)

Faith And Finances, Part II

Pastor Wil Nichols

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Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: Faith And Finances, Part II: The Power Of The Gift, Part II (Secret Gifts, Open Rewards)

Lesson Text

Matthew 6:1–4 (KJV)¹ Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. ² Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ³ But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: ⁴ That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Proverbs 19:17 (KJV)¹⁷ He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Introduction

Last week we looked at Gifts from the perspective of why God gives us overflow.

- To make us a great nation (prosper our land to go from not enough to more than enough).
- To give us a great name (prosperity with a purpose of being a blessing)
- To be a great blessing (prosperity that is generational and transferrable)

Today we will give perhaps our final message on “Faith & Finances, The Power of the Gift” by looking at how we give.

Many people are turned off by public giving for a myriad of reasons that would include those who give to show off, the focus on money at some churches, the looking down on those who don’t have to give, and even those who have it to give but don’t want others to know.

And although there are good and bad in these various ways we give, the bottom line is that there is no one way or even one reason to give as we’ve studied in this series.

We bring our tithes to God’s house, we sow a seed to reap a harvest, we offer an offering for God’s goodness, and finally we give a gift to someone in need.

Biblically speaking, most of these ways of giving were done publicly; the building of the temple, bringing tithes to the store house, rendering an offering to God were all generally done publicly for one primary reason, to provoke others to good works.

Hebrews 10: ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

John 13: ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

But as we see in our lesson text, some gifts, specifically alms (gifts to the poor) were to be done in private or secret. Why? Because God wants us to give from the right heart, with the right motivations, to get the right reward!

Series and Sermon: Faith And Finances, Part II: The Power Of The Gift, Part II (Secret Gifts, Open Rewards)

(Secret Giving, Secret Recognition, Open Reward)

I. Secret Giving (Do You Have The Right Heart?)

Matthew 6: ¹ **Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.**

The power of a secret gift comes from the right heart.

There's a special place in God's heart for the poor, and anyone who endeavors to have a heart after God's own heart, must also have a special place for the poor.

- Proverbs 19: ¹⁷ He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.
- Matthew 5: ³ **Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- Luke 4: ¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

Secret giving comes from a compassionate heart that creates spontaneous giving:

Matthew 6: ³ **But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:.**

The phrase **let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth** means that one's giving is done so freely and spontaneously that the right hand cannot keep up with his left hand.

You have to plan your tithes, you have to plan your offerings, you have to plan our seeds, but when God places a gift on your heart, you just give.

II. Secret Recognition (Do You Have The Right Motives?)

Matthew 6: ² **Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.**

The power of the secret gifts also comes from the right motives.

Motives deal with why a person does a thing. And the truth is you can do the right thing but for the wrong reason.

So how can you tell the difference between a person who's giving to be seen, and a person who just happens to be seen giving? You can't!

- 1 Samuel 16: ⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Secret giving comes from the motives of who gets the glory.

Man's Glory:

- Matthew 6: ² ... do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men.
- Galatians 5: ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

God's Glory:

- 1 Corinthians 10: ³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
- Romans 8: ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

III. Open Reward (Do You Have The Right Eyes?)

Matthew 6: ⁴ That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

The Power of the Gift comes from

- Secret Giving from the Right Heart
- Secret Recognition from the Right Motives
- Open Reward from the Right Eyes.

When you are giving to be seen by men, then you already have your reward.

- Matthew 6: ² Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But when you give secretly, when you have the right motives, the only eyes you're concerned about seeing you are the eyes of the Lord.

Proverbs 15: ³ The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow:

- **Why should I feel discouraged,** Why should the shadows come, Why should my heart feel lonely, And long for heaven and home!
- **When Jesus is my portion,** A constant friend is He, His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches over me.

And when you have the right eyes, you get an open reward!

Matthew 6: ⁴ That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Revelation 22: ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Power Of The Gift, Part II (Secret Gifts, Open Rewards))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 6:1–4, Proverbs 19:17

Sermon Outline

- I. *Secret Giving (Do You Have The Right Heart?)*
- II. *Secret Recognition (Do You Have The Right Motives?)*
- III. *Open Reward (Do You Have The Right Eyes?)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What do you like to listen to when you’re in the car?
2. Are you allergic to anything?

II. Into The Bible

1. In Proverbs 19:17, what does “lends to the LORD” mean? In this creditor–debtor picture, who is the lender and who is the borrower—and why?
2. According to Proverbs 19:17, how does the LORD “repay” the one who helps the poor? What can we expect as repayment—earthly provision, spiritual favor, or future reward (cf. Prov 14:31; Matt 25:40; Luke 14:14)?

III. Life Application

1. How do you examine your own motive for doing a nice thing for someone?
2. Give an example of doing a right thing for the wrong reason. What are the results?