

# YOUR GIVING: ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE?

Matthew 6:1-4

## Introduction:

- Giving to others and/or to God is not enough
  1. Cain and Abel gave an offering to God but \_\_\_\_\_'s offering was rejected by God.
  2. Jesus warned His disciples not to practice good deeds (like c\_\_\_\_\_ giving, termed alms) in order to be noticed by people.
- How do I know if God accepts my giving?

## It depends upon why you give (2)

- Jesus gives a negative command – *don't sound the t\_\_\_\_\_ when you give to the poor*
  1. This is a picturesque way of saying, *don't give in order to be n\_\_\_\_\_ by others.*
  2. The religious leaders loved to show off in their giving and so were called h\_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus.
- Jesus gives the reward for giving in order to be seen – *they have their reward in f\_\_\_\_\_.*
  1. This means their ONLY reward will be getting noticed and applauded by others, a t\_\_\_\_\_ reward.
  2. This means that God will not reward their giving – no e\_\_\_\_\_ rewards.
- The implication is to give in order for God to be g\_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Why should you give to the needy?
    - a. To meet their n\_\_\_\_\_ - is not enough – the Pharisees gave and met needs yet God rejected their giving.
    - b. Your prayer should be that THEY will g\_\_\_\_\_ God.
  2. Why should you give to the church?
    - a. To fulfill a r\_\_\_\_\_ is not enough – the Pharisees t\_\_\_\_\_ yet were condemned by God (Luke 18:12-14).
    - b. Your prayer should be that God will use it to bring us and others to glorify Him – using it to
      - 1) Bring people to C\_\_\_\_\_
      - 2) Bring believers into partnership with His c\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Enabling believers to progress in Christ-like  
c\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Equipping believers to practice s\_\_\_\_\_ in  
the church
- 5) Equipping believers to p\_\_\_\_\_ Christ in the  
world.
- 6) Bring p\_\_\_\_\_ to His name

### **It depends upon how you give (3,4)**

- The religious leaders gave piously and legalistically
  1. They t\_\_\_\_\_ EVERYTHING they received, even  
down to the s\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 23:23)
  2. Their h\_\_\_\_\_ were wrong (Lk 11:41,42)
- Jesus commands that giving be done
  1. With your left hand not k\_\_\_\_\_ what your right  
hand is doing.
  2. The phrase in verse 4 explains what Jesus means by this  
strange talk – your giving must be in s\_\_\_\_\_.
- What is giving in secret?
  1. This does NOT mean to be completely a\_\_\_\_\_mous in  
your giving (the poor saw the person giving to them).
  2. This does mean to give d\_\_\_\_\_ - there are no  
hidden motives to gain any sort of advantage.
- What happens when we give discreetly?
  1. God will n\_\_\_\_\_ our giving – *God who sees in  
s\_\_\_\_\_* (nothing escapes God's notice)
  2. God will r\_\_\_\_\_ our giving in an eternal way  
(1 Cor 3:13-15)
- Many today ask, *How much should I give to the church?*
  1. Most preachers will say a t\_\_\_\_\_ of your income  
based on the Law of the tithe.
    - a. Many argue that since Abraham tithed before the L\_\_\_\_\_  
of the tithe was put in place, then Christians should tithe.  
However, Abraham sacrificed an animal before the Law  
of sacrifices were put in place, yet we are not to do this.
    - b. These preachers fail to see that just as the law of  
sacrifices were fulfilled in Christ, so was the law of the  
tithe.

- 1) The tithe was given to maintain the p\_\_\_\_\_ system- Jesus is our priest (Heb 7:26-28; 1 Tim 2:5).
  - 2) The tithe was given to maintain the t\_\_\_\_\_ system – our bodies are God’s temple (1 Cor 6:19).
2. If anyone wants to give 10%, that is fine, but do not think that it is a s\_\_\_\_\_ number (and then you must decide 10% of what?). But don’t l\_\_\_\_\_ your giving.
  3. The New Testament emphasizes m\_\_\_\_\_ giving:
    - a. Giving must be a p\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 16:2)
    - b. Giving must be according to your a\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor 8:12).
    - c. Giving must be responsive to the n\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor 8:14).

**Conclusion-** are you clear on the giving that God accepts? Give w\_\_\_\_\_ and discreetly as you respond to the needs for the purpose that God will be g\_\_\_\_\_.