

Freely Give

The Bible tells us, "Freely ye have received, freely give." It also says, "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." So we know that God expects His children to give to those who have a need. Yet, there are those who give expecting to receive a reward for all they do. And if they aren't going to be praised or, at least, thanked then they aren't interested in giving at all. There is a warning in God's Word for those types of people. It is found in the following verses from Matthew 6:1-4. Fill in the missing words, and then write what is meant by those same words (or phrases) which are listed on the lines below.

Take _____ that ye do not your _____ before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no _____ of your _____ which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a _____ before thee, as the _____ do in the _____ and in the _____, that they may have _____ — _____. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy _____ _____ know what thy _____ _____ doeth: That thine alms may be in _____: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee _____.

STREETS _____

LEFT HAND _____

OPENLY _____

FATHER _____

GLORY OF MEN _____

HYPOCRITES _____

SYNAGOGUES _____

HEED _____

TRUMPET _____

ALMS _____

RIGHT HAND _____

SECRET _____

REWARD _____

LESSON PLAN

LESSON#: 148

TITLE: A Difficult Decision/Benevolence-Giving

TEXT: Matthew 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

MAIN IDEA: There is more to giving than just giving money. We must give of ourselves freely without expecting to get anything back.

OPENER: Skit Idea: Before class, ask 2 or 3 people who are not in your class to present two short scenarios to your class at the beginning of class time. In the first scenario actor 1 wants to do something "giving" so he looks around to find someone in need. He sees that actor 2 did not bring a lunch to school/work that day so he buys lunch for her and loudly proclaims to everyone that he is a wonderful person who is buying lunch for this poor destitute person who can not afford to buy her own lunch. Actor 2 is so embarrassed by the situation that she can not eat the lunch, and everyone feels rather uncomfortable about the whole situation. (If you really want to ham it up, have actor 1 hire a trumpeter to come in and play a fanfare when he gives actor 2 the lunch.)

In the second scenario actor 1 notices that actor 2 does not have a lunch so he sneaks out to the cafeteria and buys her a nice lunch. Then he leaves it on her desk with a note that tells her that it is a gift for her from a friend. When she finds the lunch she is very happy. Instead of feeling embarrassed, she is pleased that someone noticed that she didn't have a lunch, and cared enough to do something nice for her. Actor 1 is close by when she finds the lunch. He feels good inside because she is happy. He doesn't need any other thanks, so he chooses not to tell her that he did it.

LESSON: Use the skits as a lead in for a discussion about what Godly giving is. Read Matthew 6:1-4. And do the Worksheet: **Giving God's Way.**

APPLICATION: Give the students a homework assignment. Ask them to choose someone that they see every day (a friend at school, a family member, a teacher, etc.) and do something nice for that person every day for the week. The object here is not to spend money. (You might make a rule that they are not allowed to spend any money.) They are to find small simple things to do for their chosen person. Tell the students not to tell anyone what they are doing. If they want to, they can tell their subject about the project at the end of the week. Be Creative!

Giving God's Way

Read Matthew 6:1-4 and match each verse with its opposite in the right hand column.

In the space below each verse, write down what it really means.

If there are words in the verses that you don't understand,
ask your teacher to explain them.

Matthew 6:1

When you do something nice for someone, make sure that you tell everyone what you've done. You might want the local TV station to interview you so that everyone will know how great you are.

Matthew 6:2

God can not see the things you do secretly. Make sure that you always do good deeds when people are watching. Then God will hear about it and give you a reward.

Matthew 6:3

Be careful to make sure that people see you when you are giving alms. Then you will be rewarded in Heaven

Matthew 6:4

Make sure that you use both hands when you do good deeds.

Read Matthew 10:8. What do you think it means?