

The Beauty of Anonymity

Series:

Rediscovering Jesus

Today's Message:

The Beauty of Anonymity Pt. 1

Matthew 6:1

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' in front of others, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

'acts of righteousness'

Hebrew: "Tzedekah"

The rabbis defined tzedekah as "bestowing kindness," or a "free tribute of love"

Tzedakah is the Hebrew word for the acts that we call "charity" in English: giving aid, assistance and money to the poor and needy or to other worthy causes. However, the nature of tzedakah is very different from the idea of charity.

The word "charity" suggests benevolence and generosity, a magnanimous act by the wealthy and powerful for the benefit of the poor and needy. The word "tzedakah" is derived from the Hebrew root Tzadei-Dalet-Qof, meaning righteousness, justice or fairness. In Judaism, giving to the poor is not viewed as a generous, benevolent act; it is simply an act of justice and righteousness, the performance of a duty, giving the poor their

Matthew 6:2

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full."

In the Women's Court of the Temple during the first century were 13 trumpet shaped collection boxes for alms that made a specific sound as the coins entered. These containers were wide at the bottom and narrow at the top, resembling a trumpet.

Often the Pharisees that wished to boast would drop a large number of coins in at one time, which was called "sounding the trumpet." It was this practice of letting everyone know how much they were giving.

Matthew 6:3-4

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?

Matthew 15:17-20

17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these defile you. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what defile you; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile you."

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful

1 Kings 3:9-10

9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.