

Giving Is Between You and God

“Be careful not to perform your righteous acts before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be praised by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their reward....”-Matthew 6:1-2.

The above scripture is clear that our giving should be in secret. It’s a good idea to put your tithes and offerings in envelopes before placing them into the collection basket. There is no need to hold a wad of hundred-dollar notes exposed in your hand so that the persons sitting next to you can see the amount that you are giving. Also, if the Holy Spirit told you to bless a brother or sister with a gift, call the person aside in private after service and present your gift.

There is a common “ungodly” practice of going up to the altar and placing money at the feet of the pastor when he or she is preaching, so that everyone can see that person giving. This practice is a misrepresentation of [Acts 4:34-35](#) which states:

“...³⁴There were no needy ones among them, because those who owned lands or houses would sell their property, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵and lay them at the apostles’ feet for distribution to anyone as he had need.”

Note the purpose for the laying of money at the apostles’ feet: to distribute among the poor and needy. It was not done to enrich the man or woman of God. Again, I believe that if the Holy Spirit has laid it upon your heart to give money to the man or woman of God, then this should be done privately and in good order – before or after the service.

I have also witnessed occasions where sometimes two or ever three calls in one service are made by pastors for the congregation to give, and at times, for no good reason. Especially for first time visitors, this can be a “turn-off.”

Even the practice by pastors of inviting the congregation to give by joining to \$20-line, \$100-line, the \$500-line, the \$1000-line is not scriptural and is an abomination unto God! This causes the churchgoer to feel pressured into giving a certain amount of money which they may not have to give at that time. My friend, if that is the practice at your church, the man or woman of God needs to repent, and immediately discontinue such despicable practices. Having people join these lines are just public spectacles of giving against which Jesus warns us.

Note that Jesus calls us hypocrites and persons desirous of praise from others if we do these acts. And He further adds that in so doing we have already received our reward! He has already judged us!

“So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be praised by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their reward...”- Matthew 6:2.

You can read more on this in Margaret Minnicks’ excellent article entitled ‘Case Against Laying Money at the Preacher’s Feet in Modern Churches.’ Please see footnote.

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The practice of the public display of giving, against which Jesus warns us, has been a long-established practice by the religious leaders as a demonstration of their “good works.” God frowned upon this type of behaviour and described it as an abhorrent or detestable act in Ezekiel 7:19:

“They will fling their silver into the streets and their gold will become an abhorrent thing; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their appetite nor can they fill their stomachs, for their iniquity has become an occasion of stumbling.”

Not even such ‘good works’ will save them from the wrath of God. Let’s not be like the hypocrites, and make a public display of our giving. God sees our giving in secret and will reward us, just as He takes note of our prayer and fasting, of which we should not make a public spectacle like the hypocrites do:

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their reward.”- Matthew 6:5.

“When you fast, do not be sombre like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they already have their reward.”- Matthew 6:16.

Matthew 23:5 underscores the sad reality of human nature:

“All their deeds are done for men to see.”

Let us not be like the crowd and do “good works” in public just to be seen and praised by others. Let us truly follow Jesus’ teachings. For when we give in secret, our Father sees, and our divine increase or blessings will follow. Otherwise, we should not expect to receive anything **good** from God:

“Be careful not to perform your righteous acts before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Be counted among the wise. Follow Jesus' teachings:

²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." – Matthew 7:24.

"Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your Son Jesus, and His teachings on giving. Lord, let me not be like those who perform righteous acts before men to be seen and praised by them. Where I may have done such things in the past, I repent of my sins. Give me wisdom, O Lord. I intercede for pastors and other church leaders who may have misused your scriptures and practice these sinful acts. Let Your Holy Spirit convict their hearts right now. Give them the wisdom to recognize their sins and to turn from their wicked ways. O Lord, even when I pray and fast, let me do this also in secret away from the glare of the public, so that my requests may be granted according to Your will. I thank You Lord for your favour and goodness, grace and mercy towards me. In Jesus' name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."

Memory Verses:

"So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be praised by men."

Footnote:

1. Margaret Minnicks (2018). 'Case Against Laying Money at the Preacher's Feet in Modern Churches.'
<https://soapboxie.com/social-issues/Case-Against-Laying-Money-at-the-Preachers-Feet-in-Modern-Churches>