

A CHARITY CHECK-UP

Matthew 6:1-4

Consider Christ's standard for healthy giving

I. THE CAUTION (1)

- An overview and transition verse for what follows in vs. 2-18

A. THE IMPERATIVE: Beware

- Pay attention, look out, be on guard

B. THE TOPIC: Practicing righteousness

- Jesus moves from prescriptions (5:21-48) to practices (6:1-18)

C. THE DANGER: A Performance

1. Practicing in public: Before men > For an audience
2. Practicing for publicity: To be noticed > For acclaim

D. THE TRUTH: No Reward

1. Humility matters: God will not allow holy things to be used for haughty ambitions
2. Motives matter: Good works + bad motives = no reward > See I Cor. 4:5
3. Integrity matters: God is no partner in fraud

II. THE SUBJECT (2-3)

A. CHARITY: Giving to the poor or alms

B. REALITY

1. The giving is assumed in both verses 2 & 3
2. The giving is good > Though abused by some it should not be avoided
3. The giving is needed > Money, food, clothing for the disadvantaged
4. The giving is biblical > See Lev. 25:35 and I John 3:17-18

III. THE PROHIBITIONS (2)

A. DO NOT SOUND A TRUMPET

1. Seeking publicity by drawing attention or causing a commotion
2. Like these people: The hypocrites
3. In these places: Synagogues and streets
4. For this purpose: To be honored by men

B. DO NOT EXPECT MORE

1. They have their reward in full
2. They got what they wanted > The shallow and short-lived praise of man
3. There is nothing more coming

IV. THE REQUIREMENTS (3-4a)

A. LITERALLY: Do not notice the left of you or the right of you

B. INDIVIDUALITY: Not looking around at what others are doing

1. Give as God has prospered you - I Cor. 16:2
2. Give as you have purposed in your heart - II Cor. 9:7a
3. Give with sincerity not grudgingly or by compulsion - II Cor. 9:7b

C. SPONTANEITY: Give and then go on

1. Don't keep detailed records - See Matt. 25:37-39
2. Don't applaud yourself
3. Don't regret the giving
4. Don't fret the giving

D. ANONYMITY: Giving in secret (4a)

1. The recipient doesn't know who gave them a gift
2. The giver doesn't know who received their gift

V. THE PROMISES (4b)

A. GOD SEES

- Nothing is hid from the eyes of the omnipresent and omniscient One!

B. GOD REWARDS

1. Not often immediately
2. Sometimes materially
 - a. It can be provision - Psalm 37:25
 - b. It can be protection - Psalm 91:7-10
 - c. It can be sufficiency - II Cor. 9:8
3. Ultimately heavenly - II Tim. 4:7-8

CONCLUSION:

Regular check-ups help us avoid distress and disease

- May God help show up for a charity check-up