



Living the Jesus Way - Part 2

Session 2:

How to Give Generously

Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV)

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

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. 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.”

Notes:

1. Generous...for what motivation and whose glory?
2. Generous...compared to what? What is generous giving?
3. Generous...with what?
4. Matthew 6:1 - The basis for giving is a thesis
5. Matthew 6:2 - “So when.....” not “If....”
6. What is generous giving?
7. Matthew 6:3: “Do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing...”

8. We are called to be more like God
9. Matthew 6:4 - "...so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."
10. Change the world around us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. If you give already, are you happy with how much you give and how often you do so, or do you feel that you need to re-think your priorities with regard to giving?
2. Why is it so important to "not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret" (Matthew 6:2-4)?
3. How do we change the world when we "give to the needy" (Matthew 6:2)? How does our giving impact those around us? In which ways can our giving benefit society?
4. What are the benefits of giving for the givers?
5. Should people who don't have much themselves be expected to give? How can they manage this? Does the amount you give affect how "your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:4)?
6. Aside from money, are there are other things we can give? Our time, our home, our friendship? Are these less important, equally important, or more important than money? What does Jesus teach? What do you prefer to give?