

# “TO BE SEEN OF MEN”

By Keith Greer

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is plainly showing the change that will take place in the kingdom of heaven. One preacher termed it the "Superior Religion". Let us take a look at the "inwardness of true religion," using Matthew 6:1-4 as our text.

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven." {Matthew 6:1}

"**Take heed**", suggests we give considerable and careful attention to the things we do.

"**That you do your alms**". Jesus implies that these acts of charity are not one-time affairs or optional. Jesus expects us to do good deeds as we have opportunity. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" {Galatians 6:10}

"**To be seen by them.**" If the good deeds are simply done so men can see them, the action is wrong. Why? The motive is purely selfish. We are not to put on a performance for others to see us puffing up our ego!

"**Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.**" No reward or approval from God will be forthcoming. Do we simply help men because we expect something in return?

"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward." {Matthew 6:2}

"**Do not sound a trumpet**". Don't advertise. Do we gather up a circle of friends to crow about what a good deed we have accomplished? God does not want us to "beat our own drum".

"**They have their reward**". What have they received? Some praise and pat on the back from men. One has been paid in full! Nothing forthcoming in this life and none from God in the next!

"But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." {Matthew 6:3}

"**Let not thy left hand know what the right hand is doing.**" This forbids one from self-boasting about the charitable deed. Remember, the publican and tax collector in prayer? Luke 18:9-14

"That your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." {Matthew 6:4}

"**And your Father who sees in secret, will reward thee openly**". God rewards in full measure what is truly due. Can anyone compare the temporal praise of men to the praise of our

Father in heaven? Whose account would you rather be putting credit on--God's or men? Personally speaking, I would rather have one approval from God than one hundred from men!

Now, please allow me to give you some things to think about using this principle Jesus taught. Answer the following questions honestly.

Why do we come to worship God on Sunday? Is it so everyone will see that you're here? Is it to "fill a square"? Do we attend just out of habit? Could one come and their worship be unacceptable to God? Please read Matthew 7:21-23 and Matthew 15:8,9.

Why do you lay by in store on the first day of the week? To be seen of men? Out of habit to do "your part"? Am I serving God to be seen of men? Does all my service done unto the Lord for Him or is it for others to see I'm "religious?"

Dear readers, two people know the answer to these questions – God and you. Only a heartfelt service rendered from the love in our heart for God will be accepted. Which is it for you? \*\*\*