



## Giving to the Needy

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October 12

**INTRODUCTION:** In ch. 5 we saw the following:

1. The Kingdom Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus.
2. How living these out is a witness.
3. How the Law instructs us how to shine.
4. How misinterpreting the Law (or outward piety) does not lead to righteousness.

In ch. 6:1 we see that what follows is about religious hypocrisy. Thus ch. 6 begins by showing how we practice true righteousness.

**KEY POINT:** Our faith in action

**CHALLENGE:** In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Gen 2:15)

- Share how much Creation means to you?
- Why must Christians speak to environmentalism, one of the great issues of our time? Share questions & thoughts.
- How does the Bible critique environmentalism on the one hand?
- How does it command us to “tend and keep” Creation on the other?
- How is this a picture of the Gospel?

**READ:** Mt 6:1-4

**QUESTIONS:**

1. V. 1a- What is false piety or religious hypocrisy? (c.f. “in order to”).
2. Contrast 5:48 and 6:1. *Be perfect, but be careful! Jesus demands a deep righteousness, a righteousness that cannot be merely external (as seen in the last chapter as well).* **What is the danger of playing or pretending you are righteous or pious but not actually practicing righteousness?**

3. How should the humility produced in 5:48 help set disciples right here?
4. V. 1b- What do hypocrites get and what don't they get? (c.f. the repetition of this in v. 2b).
5. Mt 6:2-18- Jesus chose 3 examples of Jewish piety: alms giving (giving to the needy), prayer and fasting, to illustrate truly practicing righteousness.
6. V. 2a- “when you give.” Jesus expects His disciples will give to the needy. **How can we give to the needy personally and as a church?**
7. Hypocrisy (Greek theatre language for actors, or being double faced/masked; on and off set).
8. V. 2b- **How do the hypocrites practice their righteousness? What is the end? What should motivate practicing righteousness?**
9. **In contrast to the hypocrites how does giving in secret help fight our pride?**
10. **Jesus uses a hyperbole (overstatement) in v. 3a. What is He meaning?**
11. **Is non-secret giving sinful?**
12. **What sort of reward comes through giving secretly?**

**Next Week:** The Lord's Prayer, Mt 6:5-15