When God's Deeds Don't Count

Tony Mauck · Matthew 6:1–8

INTRODUCTION

- Throughout Israel's history, they would often fall prey to doing the right things. But doing those things for the wrong reasons.
- It is important not only what we do, and what we do is important, but also why we do what we do. And those two things must coincide.
- I've always said Psalm 139, 23 and 24 needs to be our words to God on a frequent basis.

1 Beware of Practicing Righteousness to Be Noticed

Matthew 6:1–8

- Beware of doing that to be noticed by men. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.
- They have their reward in full. And he's saying what they get out of that is what they get out of that, and that's all they're getting. The praise of men.
- Other people may not notice, they're not going to sound the trumpet for you, but your heavenly father will see, and that's all that matters.

2 The Right Thing Was Done, but God Was Not Pleased

Matthew 23; Amos 5; 1 Corinthians 13

- I want you to notice tonight a number of occasions in Scripture where the right thing was done. But God was not pleased.
- Prayer is not right just because it's prayer. Giving to others or giving to God is not right just because it's giving. If the motives are not right.
- I don't want worship for worship's sake. I want lives that are consistent with that profession.
- If I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

3 Motives That Nullify Right Forms

Matthew 6:1–8

- Engaging in the right forms can serve as an easier substitute for the greater work of molding our hearts into his image.
- As important as the what is, we can sort of become content with the what because that's easier than the why.
- If I'm doing them so that somebody else can stroke my ego and pat my back and tell me what a wonderful person that I am, if that's my motive, it don't do me any good.

- If your motive is to be noticed, praised, applauded, put on a pedestal by other men. Good deeds don't count.

4 Right Forms and Right Beliefs Become a Source of Pride

Luke 18; 1 Corinthians 12:24

- When those right forms and right beliefs become a source of pride. That's what happened to the Pharisees.
- Self-righteousness, self-elevation, self-exaltation, thinking that because we got those things right, that makes us better than other people.
- This guy went down to his house justified. Not because he was better, but because he understood who he was.
- With God, it's an equal playing field.

5 Do It Without Murmuring and Complaining

1 Peter 4:8–9; Philippians 2:12–14

- We can do the right things, we murmur and complain about. Might as well not do it.
- Practice hospitality. Do it without murmuring and complaining. That's what Peter says.
- There's no murmuring or complaining about all the work and sacrifices that he had to make for the Corinthians.

6 Thinking Our Good Deeds Merit Our Salvation

Hebrews 2:3; Proverbs 4

- Thinking in all of our good deeds that we are somehow meriting our salvation. If we start thinking that, we're going to nullify all our good deeds.
- Whatever we've done, we're still unprofitable servants. He says, we've done only that which we ought to have done.
- I am no closer to meriting my salvation than the day I rose from the waters of baptism.
- We're going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and receive the things done in our body, whether those things are good or bad.
- We must be on constant heart watch. And that's always been the case because they couldn't be justified by law under the Old Testament.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's not be content with doing a lot of the right things and saying a lot of the right things. Let's do them for the right reasons and with the right heart, knowing that we are only what we are.

MY NOTES