

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

The Sermon On The Mount: Ep. 4 – The War Within

Matthew 6:1-4

“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.

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win”

– Sun Tzu, [The Art of War](#)

The **Revolution Of Jesus** is fought upon the frontlines of your heart.

MOTIVATION OF THE HEART: Vs. 1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others **to be seen by them.** “

WHY:

1. Acts of righteousness are not what leads to salvation.

- a. **Romans 3:10** As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one"
- b. **Romans 10:9** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your **heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

An Advancing Kingdom: Once the war of the heart is won, the kingdom is then advanced upon the earth through acts of compassion.

- **Vs. 3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Acts of righteousness are inextricably tied to an avalanche of kingdom resource.

God is obligated to bless and reward that which is righteous.

- **Proverbs 21:21** Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Going Deeper

Questions for small groups and personal reflection.

1. The battle for our soul begins in each of our own hearts. How are we to wage that war?
2. This scripture seems to suggest that even righteous actions with improper motive receive no reward from God? Why would that be?
3. Jesus says, "When you give to the needy." Do you think this implies that this should be part of our spirituality on a regular basis?
4. Pastor Adam said that acts of righteousness never function alone, but are attached to other corollary blessings. Why would one righteous act release other blessings?
5. The sermon mentioned that God is obligated to bless that which is righteousness. Why would that be and do you agree?