



SERIES: Walking with Jesus
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Monday, November 27, 2023
Scripture: Matthew 6:1-4, Deuteronomy 15:13-14
TITLE: Don't Be a Hypocrite

I don't pay too much attention to celebrity culture. I find it annoying and shallow. But recently, I saw a video about Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. They had been vocal about wanting a private life. A life away from the limelight and focused on the causes on their heart. But it was not more than 2 or 3 weeks later they were walking around the streets with film crews filming some kind of reality series.

Their quiet and private philanthropic lifestyle was not reality. They were hypocrites because it wasn't about the causes but about them.

Jesus warned us about our giving. There is righteous giving and hypocritical giving. What's the difference? Jesus has the answer as we walk with Him in Matthew 6:1-4 (CSB).

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. So whenever you give to the poor, don't sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Giving and tithing are very important to God. Moses said, “When you set him free, do not send him away empty-handed. Give generously to him from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress. You are to give him whatever the LORD your God has blessed you with” (Deuteronomy 15:13-14).

But it's not just giving. It's giving with the right motives. That's why Jesus says, “Don't practice your righteousness, so it is seen. Don't sound like a trumpet to make sure everyone looks at you before you give. You don't want to be a hypocrite. You don't want to be one person at home and another person at church. Be humble. Be generous.”

You see, our righteous actions, apart from right motives, are just filthy rags. They're not valued by God. So give generously. Give privately. Give to God's glory. Not your own. It's like John Stott said, “Christian giving is to be marked by self-sacrifice and self-forgetfulness, not by self-congratulation.”

So this is my challenge to you today: give generously with a humble heart. There is something wonderful about blessing other people by the grace of God. And it's even more enjoyable when

God gets the glory because it's all His. So find one way to give abundantly and humbly out of the grace that God has shown you.

When we give away freely what God has given generously, we will win the day.