

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 87***

***“1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:1-4 KJV)***

***“1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:1 KJV)*** Alms are righteous acts that we give a help to a poor person who is in need. When you withhold the alms then you are doing unrighteous thing toward those who deserve it. They are righteous acts because it saves people lives and deliver them from troubles and put them back to a normal life that through alms they can be sustained and their families. Those acts of alms in helping people can bring great dramatic changes in the people lives that they are helped.

The alms are mentioned and recommended in the Scriptures and were also observed well with the Jewish and the people of God and are considered as righteous acts. Let us review these Scriptures that motivate us to give alms and help the poor and needy:

***“And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.” (Leviticus 25:35 KJV)*** Giving aid to a person and support him, that he may even live with you to support him.

***“If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:” (Deuteronomy 15:7 KJV)*** Mercy and compassion needed toward the poor so he can live.

***“For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.” (Deuteronomy 15:11 KJV)*** The poor people will be always available around us, so we need to adopt the attitude to help the poor.

***“But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.” (Luke 11:41 KJV)*** Jesus recommended giving alms while He was speaking in the house of a Pharisee.

***“Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.” (Luke 12:33 KJV)*** Jesus recommended giving alms to the poor while he was speaking to his disciples, and in such will be making for themselves treasures in Heaven.

***“And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;” (Acts 3:2 KJV)*** Here a Jewish poor man who was lame were living on alms because he cannot work. So we give alms to support people with such situation who cannot work.

***“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.” (Acts 9:36 KJV)*** Tabitha was a disciple of Jesus and she was doing lot of good works and almsdeeds. She was doing garments and coats and was giving the widows. Giving to the poor and needy can be food, clothes, shelter, money or other things they are in need of.

***“2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? 4 And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.” (Acts 10:2, 4 KJV)*** This is Cornelius who was a righteous man, who fear God, pray to God, and who was giving alms to the poor and that came memorial before God. It means God remembered these righteous things that Cornelius was doing. In giving alms to the poor, God will remember that for you and reward you.

***“Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.” (Acts 24:17 KJV)*** Paul mentioned that when he came to Jerusalem the purpose of his visit was to bring alms to the poor.

Here the temptation that the person who is helping will be proud and boasting of what he did and he will be tempted to announce and say what he did. It might be he will announce to convince the people that he is a righteous man because he is doing righteous and good things.

So here when he was speaking to His disciples and to the crowd around him He warned them, ***“1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:1 KJV)*** If you will just help to let people know that you are helping the people and you are a good man, then that is your reward to receive praise from the people, but you will receive no reward from God the Father. Paul spoke the same when He was speaking about charity, ***“3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,” (1 Corinthians 13:3-4 KJV)*** What we can learn from such is that giving to feed the poor just out of boasting and showing off will not consider an act of charity or love and will not be receiving any reward from God. The wrong motive here for giving will be judged and the person will receive no reward from God the Father according to the Word of Jesus. He told the Pharisees, ***“otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven”***, because the Pharisees were proclaiming that they were the children of God. So we need to give out of compassion and mercy unto the poor person who is in need in order to be rewarded by God.

Jesus warned us that to ***“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them.”*** So when we give alms we should not let other people see it and not to make it

**something public.** Here the Lord gives direction of how they needed to give the alms, *“2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”* (Matthew 6:2 KJV) He told them when you help, do not sound the trumpet and announced as the hypocrites; the Pharisees, were doing that in the synagogues and in the streets where people gathered so when they announce the people will hear and with such their purpose was to convince the people that they were good in order receive praise from men, while they were non righteous people. Jesus told them that if they will do that then the praise of men is their reward, and no more a reward from God the Father. **Jesus here is judging the wrong motive and teaching His disciples and teaching us today to have a clean heart and clean motive for giving, that we should do that out of love and mercy on the poor.**

Jesus said, *“as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets”*, here it means some people who are wicked they do alms in order to cover up their sins and to attract the people to the good things they do, so they will escape the critics of the wrongs and the sins that they are doing. **Alms giving cannot be used to cover sins.**

**Our aim of giving should not be receiving the praise of men, even not from those whom we are helping otherwise we will be losing our reward from God the Father.**

*“3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:”* (Matthew 6:3 KJV) Here Jesus gave more details of how to give the alms and how to do it in secret as much as you can that people would not know, including those who are near to you, to know that you are giving to the poor. When Jesus said, *“let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth”*, is a symbolic way of speech to express that giving the alms should be done as much as possible in secret.

*“4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”* (Matthew 6:4 KJV) In such a way the alms help for the poor people will be in secret, and not in public, for it is supposed to be like that as ordained by God. But the Pharisees abused that practice for their own benefit and for their own glory. **Therefore Jesus here corrected that wrong practice that was taking place and recommended that it should be done in secret as suppose to be, and in doing so, only God the Father will see what you did in secret and He will reward you openly; that He would bless you and reward you openly that the people will see God and His blessing in your life.**

*“5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”* (Matthew 6:5-8 KJV)

*“5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”* (Matthew 6:5 KJV) Jesus here

was speaking about what you need to do when you are going to pray. Jesus was judging the practice that the Pharisees were doing. He was calling them hypocrites, for they abused the gift of prayer that God gave to speak and communicate with Him, and to hear from God; but they made their prayer to be seen to impress men. That is why you find them they loved to pray while they were standing in the synagogues where people gathered and in the corners of the streets where more than one street meet, so more people will come across and so people will see them praying. Here Jesus mentioned standing not sitting because in standing more men will be able to see them. Jesus declared to them what they will ultimately receive out of their prayers, the reward from men and not from God. **As if God will not hear such kind of prayers because it came out of wrong motive to impress men that they are pious people. Therefore Jesus brought such to the surface and started to teach His disciples and to us today in order to correct it.**

*“6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”* (Matthew 6:6 KJV) To combat that wrong practice of the Pharisees and their wrong motive, He instructed them that when they will pray they need to enter their room and close the door on them and pray to God the Father who is unseen, and when they pray to God in secret, and no men around them, they will be speaking only to Him of what is really in their heart and want to tell Him, and God who sees what is done in secret and hear their sincere prayer will reward them and His blessing will appear in their lives and others will see that.

So here the admonition of Jesus is not about to pray while you are alone or that you suppose to go into your room and pray or about not to stand and pray, but that when you pray, don't pray in order for you to be seen by men, but to let God hear what you want to ask from Him. **So we can pray in public, we can pray standing, and we can pray in secret with these directions that Jesus is directing us to follow that our prayer should be directed to God and not for the purpose that men see us praying.**

*“7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”* (Matthew 6:7 KJV) Here Jesus was admonishing against another practice of the Pharisees who were making a long prayers with repetition in order to make it long, which is part of their way to let people notice them to impress them that they are pious people. When Jesus said, *“for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking”*; that is true they will be heard by men and not by God, because that is their intention. He considered them as the heathen, the Gentiles who have no faith on God but on men, because the prayers of the Pharisees were to impress and to take the attention of men. This what Jesus said about the Pharisees who use prayer to show off, *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.”* (Matthew 23:14 KJV) **So here Jesus was condemning a showing off in prayer and also affirming that we should not be enticed to have long prayer to impress people but a sincere and pure heart when we come in prayer and that will impress God more of such.**

*“8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”* (Matthew 6:8 KJV) Jesus further admonished His disciples and He is admonishing us today that we should not be like them, because God our Father knows our real needs and our situation even before we ask from Him.

**My dear and beloved:** So now let us come to God and allow the Holy Spirit to check our lives and our hearts and the motive behind our prayers and the motives behind our giving.

Let us repent if we are in any way in disorder in regard to the teaching that Jesus is teaching us from His Word about giving alms to the poor and about prayer.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word about giving alms and prayers, that teaches me clearly your ways of how I live my life for you and how to do things to please you.*

*Come now to the Lord in repentance and allow the Holy Spirit to examine your heart.*

*Confess your sins of non willingness to help the poor and the lack of prayer. Confess and renounce your sins of boasting, showing off, your wrong motive behind giving alms and prayers to impress people rather than to please God. Repent of the sin of repetition in prayers. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins*

*\_\_\_\_\_.*  
*Lord I commit myself to give alms to the following poor people*  
*\_\_\_\_\_ according to the way that I learned today from*  
*your Word.*

*Lord I commit myself to the life of prayer that you want me to follow and apply in my life according to your Word \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented of their sins and set their lives and hearts right before you and responded to your Word and to the teaching that we received today from your Word. Lord answer their prayers and reward them according to your promises. Lord protect them from their enemies and provide all their needs.*

*Lord bless us as a church as we commit ourselves to live according to your Word and will. Lord lead us to help the poor and the needy and give us wisdom how to implement such ministry in our lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and reach new people, and make new disciples and train more workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.*

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 87. Matthew 6:1-4. Leviticus 25:35. Deuteronomy 15:7. Deuteronomy 15:11. Luke 11:41. Luke 12:33. Acts 3:2. Acts 9:36. Acts 10:2, 4. Acts 24:17. 1 Corinthians 13:3-4. Matthew 4:5-8. Matthew 23:14.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf  
The Church Overseer  
Church of God

United Arab Emirates  
www.churchofgoduae.com  
Email: thebread1@gmail.com  
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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