



## **Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 07.01.2018**

### Recap:

- Matthew 6:1-4 is not about whether we should give to the poor and needy, but how we should give to the poor and needy. It is implied that we should be giving.
- Jesus tells his followers that if they seek praise and honor from others as a reward for giving to the poor, then that is all they will receive for giving to the poor. If we are not showy about giving, then we will be rewarded not by others, but by God.
- Being showy and trying to be righteous to impress others does not impress God.
- Jesus wants faith to be a natural part of your life, and there is a reward that comes from something becoming natural and second-nature.

### Discuss:

1. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the apostle Paul writes that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. Would you say you are a cheerful giver?
2. READ Matthew 6:1-4.
3. Why do you think God is not concerned with manner in which we give to the poor? Why do you think it matters the reason why we give to the poor?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”? Is this even possible?
5. READ Deuteronomy 15:1-11.
6. Why do you think the verse “At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts” (Deut. 15:1) is not followed?
7. In the verse “Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to” (Deut. 15:10), how do you think God intends to bless those who give generously?
8. Read Matthew 6:1-4 one more time. The Pharisees got their reward in full because they got what they were seeking: the praise of people. Jesus wants us to seek the reward of having our faith be naturally lived out. How is this a much better reward? What does this reward entail?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

### Read at Home: Additional Readings about Giving to the Poor

- Psalm 112
- Matthew 25:31-40
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15