

**Cultivating
a Christian Character**

Studies in
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew chapters 5-7

Giving God's Way
Matthew 6.1-4

Two ways to give

- *The applause of men
or the approval of God?*

1. With a flourish and fanfare - to be noticed by others, vs1-2

- *an actor plays to his audience Mk 12.41
some people love the praise of their peers
John 12.43
this is the way of the world*

2. Discretely in faith - to honour God, vs3-4

- *Jesus expects us to give to those in need v3*
an Old Testament principle Dt 15.7-11
a New Testament requirement Mat 5.42
- *Jesus expects us to be self-forgetful*
in our giving v3
“don’t allow charity to turn into vanity”
don’t think about your generosity Mt 25.34-40
- *Jesus expects our giving to be private v4*
it’s between us and God
nobody else needs to know

2. Discretely in faith - to honour God, vs3-4

- *Jesus expects our giving to be rewarded v4*
some have already received
a receipt for their giving v2
nothing more than a round of applause
others will be rewarded by seeing
the eternal fruit of their giving v4
saved people in heaven Lk 16.9; Heb 6.10

3. Giving God's Way – some key principles

- *our giving is to be regular 1 Cor 16.2*
“every week”
- *our giving is to be personal 1 Cor 16.2*
“each one of us”
- *our giving is to be budgeted 1 Cor 16.2*
“set aside a sum of money”
- *our giving is to be proportionate 1 Cor 16.2*
“in keeping with our income”
the Jews were called to tithe (give 10%)
Gen 14.20; 28.22; Lev 27.30; Mal 3.7-10
Christians see tithing as a good guideline

3. Giving God's Way – some key principles

- ***our giving is to be from the heart 2 Cor 9.7
willingly, cheerfully***
- ***our giving is to be generous 1 Cor 9.11
God enables us to be generous
however much or little we have Mk 12.41-44
God looks for our willingness 2 Cor 8.12
generosity reaps its own rewards 2 Cor 9.6
our generosity is evidence of God's grace
at work in us 2 Cor 8.9; 8.1,6,7; 9.8,14***
- ***God is praised when we give 2 Cor 9.12-13***
- ***we are prayed for when we give 2 Cor 9.14***
- ***it's a joy to be like God, the greatest giver 9.15***