

# When it is Wrong to Do Good

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 6:1-18.
- B. This passage speaks to motives.

## II. The admonition.

- A. One is to watch out while he does his good deeds.
- B. If he does them to be noticed, he will not have a reward before the Father.
- C. This addresses believers who have already received salvation—this is not about salvation.
- D. This does not say a public deed is wrong. This verse says that one must do good deeds without a motive for attention.

## III. Illustrations.

### A. Giving.

1. One is not to call a great deal of attention to himself in giving.
2. The one who does this receives his reward paid in full.
3. One is to give in secret.

### B. Prayer

1. The hypocrites prayed to be seen by men.
2. A person is to pray in secret. (II Kings 4:33)
3. Why a person prays determines how a person prays (Luke 18).
4. Prayer is not to be an empty repetition like pagans pray.
5. The Lord's Prayer is an illustration on how to pray, not a call to exact and empty repetition. (Isaiah 29:3, Ezekiel 26:33, Psalm 2)

### C. Fasting.

1. Those who advertise their fasting have their reward.
2. Good deeds are to be done in secret.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. It is not enough to do a good deed—motive matters.
- B. The mark of a hypocrite is not inconsistency it is motive.
- C. One can address hypocrisy by going to the Father in secret who is near and dear.

**Application questions:**

1. What is hypocrisy?

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2. Is motive always important in good deeds? Explain.

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3. How would you assess your own motives in these spiritual activities? What is something practical and purposeful you can do this week to grow in this area?

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