

23 September 2012 - Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **Sermon On The Mount (part 5): The Christian and his alms**

Scripture Text: Matthew 6:1-4

1. Chapter 5 starts with the sermon on the Mount in which Jesus teaches us what it means to be a Christian from the 8 beatitudes. A true believer will have his life transformed in his relationship to God's Word. In Chapter 6, it has to do with a believer's life in relation to his giving of alms to God, his prayer life and fasting.

2. Matthew 6:1-4 focuses on the giving of alms. Alms simply means compassion in which a believer shows mercy and service which will include our giving of our tithes and offerings. We must check our attitude that our giving is acceptable to God.

3. In verse 1, we are told to take heed which means to hold our mind properly - this tells us that we must not allow wrong motives to lead us astray in our giving of alms. The wrong motive is that we show acts of mercy and service to be seen of men. This is to get the attention of others on ourselves to want to be praised and commended by men.

4. Jesus said that we will get the wrong reward for our wrong motive. The reward is that we will get praises from men but they are merely earthly commendations with no heavenly gain. We need to examine our hearts especially those who serve in visible areas. There is a fine line that we must not cross to desire the accolades from men. If others commend us, we must learn to receive it humbly. The issue is really with ourselves in our attitude to serve and give only to the Lord and for the Lord.

5. The right motive of giving is that it must be done so secretly as though our left hand does not know what our right hand is doing. It is only between us and the Lord. We do not murmur nor complaint when we serve. It does not matter if others do not appreciate us. God will give us the right reward when we have the right motive. He will openly reward us with His blessings that can be seen.