

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Righteous Giving - You or Christ Glorified"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Matthew 6:1-4 says, "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

These are the very words taught by Jesus Christ, given for the purpose of protecting individuals and churches from ostentatious giving. Any true born-again teacher of God's word knows that Christians must reach out to people who are hurting, ill or have a real need. I recommend how the communitarian, Matthew Henry had put it: "It is a great duty, a duty which all the disciples of Christ, according to their ability, must abound in." It is my conviction that we are to minister to the needs of the Body of Christ (Galatians 6:2) and to the non-churching in hopes of drawing them to the love of God and His Son Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:27)

The problem in meeting a need--without the Holy Spirit bringing illumination to the truths in Matthew 6:1-4 may only reveal how generous the persons or organizations are, thus bringing glory only to themselves. Jesus makes it clear: all love gifts should be given in such a way so that there are no temptations for others to glorify the giver, but ministered in a way that brings praise to God. When that is done,

God will bless the love offering in a way that brings the hurting and needy into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. (New American Commentary; Commentary and Explanatory on the Whole Bible; The Pulpit Commentary; Matthew Henry Commentary).

During my 25+ years of preaching and teaching God's Word, I have observed the church--as the world sees it--reaching out to the non-

churched. Too often, it comes across to them as, "that person or church only wants us to become members of their church." When that thought occurs, ministry outreaches appear to be administered through ulterior motives. We deceive ourselves if we think we are not in great danger of the subtle sin of drawing attention to ourselves or our churches as we reach out. Not following Jesus' principle of meeting the needs of the hurting,

as taught by Him, can spoil our efforts, like flies in healing oils can ruin the entire box of precious ointments. (The New American Commentary; Commentary and Explanatory on the Whole Bible; Matthew Henry Commentaries)

A Spirit-anointed love ministry that reaches out to the needs of the hurting is guided by the following truths: 1.) A Christ-appointed overseer that assists the Body of Christ to exercise their gifts for the good of others and not themselves (Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:4) 2.) Everything is being done in a manner that brings clarity to the whole counsel of God's Word. (Matthew 28:18-20) 3.) Full accountability presented to those who have Biblical authority. (Acts 11:1-4, 18) 4.) It must have someone who is gifted in collecting and distributing the love offerings. (Acts 6:1-6) 5.) It must have someone opening doors of opportunities for participation during the outreach. (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

In the following passage of Scripture, Jesus does not contradict Matthew 5:16, "the letting your light shine before men." The Lord's principles are for us to govern our own hearts, which is paramount to Him. Truthfully, this way of ministering to needs protects His personal honor and us from being worshiped by men. (The New American Commentary, Commentary and Explanatory on the Whole Bible)

Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart with these questions: 1.) What is the purpose of your giving to meet a need? 2.) Are you exercising your Spiritual gifts for the Lord or your own recognition? 3.) When your giving is complete, who is getting the praise?

Like a Windy Day



Gray and white clouds sail across a pale blue sky on a windy winter day. What will the weather bring? One minute it looks like a storm...the next minute streaks of golden sunlight appear and so does the promise of a sunny day. Who knows what to expect? Life is like an unsettled day; things can look bright one minute, uncertain the next. We know that disappointments will come. A relationship with our Creator can prepare us for the uncertainties...He is in control of all things. In His House, you will meet those who have learned to survive life's storms by sharing their faith in His wisdom and love. Go to your house of worship this week and prepare for the storms of life.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Revelation 19:1-21	Revelation 20:1-15	Revelation 21:1-27	Revelation 22:1-21	Ezra 7:1-28	Nehemiah 8:1-18	Nehemiah 12:24-47

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Public Notices

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICK J. MINDRUP

First published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, November 22, Friday, November 29, and December 6, 2013.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE SECTION
In the Matter of the Estate of PATRICK J. MINDRUP, Deceased.
NOTICE OF HEARING
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on November 14, 2013, a Petition was filed in this County by Joseph M. Mindrup, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Patrick J. Mindrup, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved, accounts be settled and allowed, the heirs be determined, the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto. Petitioner requests the Court find the allowances requested for attorney's fees and expenses are reasonable and should

be allowed, the costs be determined and ordered paid, the administration of the Estate be closed, and upon the filing of receipts, the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Joseph M. Mindrup, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before December 16, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in the District Court of Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

/s/Joseph M. Mindrup
JOSEPH M. MINDRUP
SUBMITTED BY:
/s/Kaylene Brin
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