

An Audience of One

Matthew 6:1 – 8 and Matthew 6:16 – 18

Although the Scribes and Pharisees did many good deeds, they were condemned by Jesus Christ because their motives for doing such works were not for the glory of God or even for the sincere aid of others. Their good deeds were done to be seen by men. The works that are approved by God are those that are done for His glory, from a pure and sincere heart.

1. What is the warning of Matthew 6:17?
2. Matthew 6:1 speaks of "charitable deeds." According to Matthew 25:35 – 40, what are some of these charitable deeds?
3. From a dictionary, define the words "motive" and warning."
4. In the future, the Father will reward works that we have done. Because of improper motives, some works will be burned and no reward given. Other works will "withstand the fire" and be rewarded. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11 – 15 for further insight.
5. According to Matthew 6:2, what is the present reward of the hypocrite?
6. What is the attitude that we should have when doing charitable deeds, according to Matthew 6:3, 4.
7. Not only do the hypocrites love to do charitable deeds, but, according to Matthew 6:5 they also love to do what?
8. Prayer is supposed to be directed towards God only. Who are the prayers of the hypocrite directed towards? (Matthew 6:5)
9. Do you have a "secret place" where you can get alone with God? (Matthew 6:6)
10. What is the promise of Matthew 6:6?
11. From a dictionary, define the word "secret."
12. What types of words does the hypocrite use when he prays? (Matthew 6:7)
13. God has ordained that we should pray, but He already knows what? (Matthew 6:8)
14. Along with charitable deeds and prayer, the hypocrite also did what else to be seen by people? (Matthew 6:16)
15. How did they make sure that people knew that they were fasting? (Matthew 6:16)
16. What do you think Matthew 6:17 means?

Of necessity, sometimes our charitable deeds, our prayers and fastings will be known and seen by others. But, our motive for doing these things should never be to be seen by men, and to receive glory from them ... Otherwise we have "no reward" from our Father in Heaven.

The Greatest Deeds Are Done Before An Audience of One
"Thy Father Which Sees In Secret Shall Reward Thee Openly"