

The Big Idea: If you want the praise of people, and you get it, that's all you get. There's no reward from God for those who seek it from others.

I. A quick review – living life like Jesus

A. Chapter 5 – TEACHING / MORAL commands

B. Chapter 6 – PRACTICE / WORDS of warning

II. Holiness into hypocrisy...

A. The principle STATED

1. Right MOTIVES

- Is there a CONTRADICTION?

- Working for REWARDS

- The CHOICE

2. WRONG motives

- Hypocrites act by CALCULATION, not spontaneity

- Hypocrites focus on EXTERNALS, not the heart

- Hypocrites use the right words and right actions to cover wrong MOTIVES

B. The principle ILLUSTRATED

1. GIVING

- Right ACTIONS, wrong MOTIVES

➤ We're not to give for the PRAISE of people

➤ We're not to give under PRESSURE

➤ We're not to simply give our MONEY, we're to give OURSELVES

➤ We're not to give to fulfill the LAW, we're to give out of LOVE

- RIGHT actions, right MOTIVES

➤ Giving is to be done in PRIVATE

➤ Giving is the responsibility of EACH person

➤ Attitude is more important than the AMOUNT

➤ Giving is to be PROPORTIONATE, GENEROUS, and SACRIFICIAL

III. What we take away...

The praise of people comes and goes, it's brief and fleeting; but when we act out of devotion to God, his “well done” will echo through eternity