

Scripture: Matthew 6:2-4

I. Righteous Giving

A. **Methods of Giving**

1. Tithe = 10%
 - a) Given of our first fruits to our local church
2. Offerings = giving more than 10%
 - a) Given through or to the local church
 - (1) Missions
 - (2) Special offerings
 - (3) Fundraising
3. Alms = charitable giving
 - a) Given to individuals or groups

B. **Mis-Givings**

1. Sounding trumpets on street corners
 - a) Drawing attention to ourselves
2. Salvation giving
 - a) Indemnification giving
3. Strings attached
 - a) Designated giving
4. Seeking giving
 - a) Desiring to receive reward in return for giving

C. **Meaningful Giving**

1. Secret
 - a) Giving without fanfare
2. Sacrificial
 - a) Giving when you "can't afford" to give
3. Spirit led
 - a) Giving as the Spirit directs
4. Celebratory
 - a) Giving with a joyful heart

D. **Motivations for Giving**

1. W = Worship
 - a) An act of thanksgiving and praise for what God has given to us
2. O = Obedience
 - a) An act of obedience to God's command to tithe and give
3. R = Responsibility
 - a) An act of taking seriously our responsibility to support the ministry of the church
4. T = Trust

- a) An act of trusting God to provide
- 5. H = Help
- a) An act of helping others

As we discussed last week, this series within a series deals with doing the righteous thing righteously. There is a wrong way to do the right thing. And as Jesus makes clear in these passages, the wrong way has more to do with the attitude behind the behavior than with the actions and behavior themselves. God judges our hearts and not just our hands.

I pray that you are giving to the kingdom of God. But more importantly I pray that you are giving with the proper motives.

During our time of invitation this morning, I encourage you to ask yourself: Is my giving worship or is it work? Am I giving out of obedience or out of compulsion? Am I giving responsibly or am I shirking my responsibility? Does my giving exhibit trust in God or trust in money? Am I giving to help others or am I giving to get something?