

WSU Christian Challenge Study Guide  
Matthew 6:1-4  
1/26/2023

*Read Matthew 6:1-4.*

### ***The Motive and Reward of the Hypocrite (v. 1-2)***

*Read Matthew 5:13-16.*

- As you hold Matthew 5:13-16 and Matthew 6:1-2 together, how would you describe our responsibility for and relationship to good/righteous works?
- How would you describe the hypocrite's motivation to do good works?
- How would you describe the hypocrite's reward for doing good works?
- What, specifically, about doing good works is Jesus warning us to beware of here?
- Where do you notice the pull to do good works for the praise of others?

### ***Jesus' Assumption of Charity (v. 2-3)***

*Jesus twice says, "...when you give to the needy..." He assumes that His followers will, indeed, give to the needy.*

- Do you have any apprehensions about giving to the needy? If so, what are they?
- What groups of people do you think would fall into the category of "needy" in our culture?
- What are some principles you think would couple wisdom and obedience in giving to the needy?

### ***The Motive and Reward of the Poor in Spirit (v. 3-4)***

- What is the difference between the "public" hypocrite and the "private" hypocrite and how does Jesus call us to be different from both of them?
- Where do you notice the pull to praise yourself for your good works?
- How would you describe the poor in spirit's motivation to do good works?
- How would you describe the poor in spirit's reward for doing good works?
- Why is it important to remember that Jesus is not creating a "law" about doing our good works privately versus publicly, but that he is speaking about being aware of the motives of our hearts?

### ***Application***

- Do you have any spiritual practices that help you to consistently pause and consider your motives? If so, what are they? If not, what is one thing you could try this week?
- Are there any internal motivations that you need to confess and turn from?

- What are some practical ways you could get involved with giving to the needy, whether that is financially or through service? Do you know of any Christian organizations that serve the needy?