

## Sermon on the Mount part 10

### Giving to Those in Need (Matthew 6:1-4)

#### *Checklist:*

- Props and 4 copies of the script for “Don’t Let Your Left Hand Know...” skit (see attached)
- Index card and pen/cil for each person for “One Specific Way to Give/Help”

#### **1. Intro:**

Today, we’re going to continue to study Jesus’ sermon on the mount. Let’s start with a fun little skit...

#### **2. “Don’t Let Your Left Hand Know...” skit**

*Get four volunteers. Give them the scripts and props. Give them 10 minutes to read over and practice acting out the skit in another room. (While the volunteers practice, ask the other kids to share their high point and low point of the week.) Bring the volunteers back and have them act out the skit (they can keep the scripts to help them).*

#### **3. Jesus’ Teaching about Giving to Those in Need:**

Read Matthew 6:1-4 (while youth follow along in Bibles)

##### *Ask:*

- What’s “don’t let your left hand know what your right is doing” really mean?
- Why’s it good to do righteous things (like giving) in secret?

##### *Explain:*

- Earlier, Jesus also said we’re supposed to let people see our good works so they give God glory.
- So, the point is that we shouldn’t do good things for our glory (to be seen by men so they think we’re great) but for God’s glory. It’s the motive that’s important!

#### **4. A Couple Points:**

- Giving to people in need is commanded in the Bible.
- But, Paul said if a man doesn’t work he doesn’t eat, so we shouldn’t just enable people to be lazy. But we should help people who are in real need.

#### **5. Examples:**

*Ask:* Money is one way we could help people in need. But what are other examples of ways we could give to help people in need in our church, family, neighborhoods, or community?

*(Some ideas if youth don’t come up with them: Help them fix something they need fixed, help take care of the yard of someone who can’t do that on their own, volunteer to help at a place that helps people in need, like the food pantry.)*

#### **6. One Specific Way to Give/Help:**

- *Give each person an index card and paper and encourage them to pray and think of one person that needs help and how they can help them within the next two weeks to share God's love or one way they can give to help people in need in general (like serving at the food pantry, etc.).*
- *In closing, encourage them to do what they wrote on their card in the next two weeks. And encourage them to help when they can, in general, when they know of people in real need – not so people think they are great but to show God's love and help people think God is great!*

### ***Closing Prayer***

#### *References:*

William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book, 1979 printing), 320.

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, The Bible Speaks Today series (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1978), 127.

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## **Don't Let Your Left Hand Know What Your Right Hand Is Doing Skit**

### ***Cast:***

- Bible Reader

- Right Hand Man – someone who uses their right hand as a cool hand puppet
- Lefty – someone who uses their left hand as a geeky hand puppet
- Person In Need

**Setup:**

Chair for each hand puppet person to sit on “on-stage”

**Props Characters Should Have:**

Bible for Bible Reader to read from

Piece of paper (to be the “Mission Impossible” message)

Money

**Begin** (*Right Hand Man “on stage” (in other words, a person sitting on a chair with their right hand out like a hand puppet) and the person using their hand as Lefty also on stage in their chair, but with Lefty behind their back.*)

**Bible Reader:** (*enters*) “Hey Right Hand Man. What’s up?”

**Right Hand Man:** “Nothin’. Just chillin’.”

**Bible Reader:** “Matthew 6:1-4 in the New International Version says: “<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

**Right Hand Man:** “Cool.”

**Bible Reader:** (*exits*)

**Lefty:** (*comes out from behind the person’s back*) “Hey Right Hand Man. What are you up to this fine day?”

**Right Hand Man:** “Nothin’. Just chillin’.”

**Lefty:** “Oh! Nifty!”

**Person In Need:** (*enters*) “Hey Right Hand Man. What’s up?”

**Right Hand Man:** “Nothin’. Just chillin’.”

**Person In Need:** “You know what. I’m really in need. I’m really gonna have a hard time to buy groceries this month for my family.”

**Lefty:** “Oh, goodness. I wonder what we ever could do?”

**Bible Reader:** (*begins to hum Mission Impossible theme music offstage. Continues while...*)

**Person In Need and Lefty** (*look around with confused looks wondering what’s going on. Continues while...*)

**Bible Reader** (*enters “stealthily” while still humming Mission Impossible theme music and gives a piece of paper to Right Hand Man then exits “stealthily” while still humming music. When “offstage” singing stops.*)

**Person In Need and Lefty** *shrug their shoulders then just look around aimlessly. Continues while...*

**Right Hand Man:** (*reads message aloud as if only to himself while Lefty and Person In Need look aimlessly around*) “Your mission, if you choose to accept is to give Person In Need help in buying groceries without Left Hand knowing what you’re doing. This message will self destruct in 5 seconds... 4... 3... 2... 1...” (*pause*) Hmm... It didn’t blow up. Oh well.” (*crumples paper and throws it on the floor*)

**Person In Need:** (*comes out of looking around aimlessly and talks to Right Hand Man*) “So, you think you can help?”

**Right Hand Man:** “Hey Lefty, look over there!”

**Lefty** (*looks the other way saying*) “where... where... where...” (*keeps looking away while...*)

**Right Hand Man:** (*discretely reaches into a pocket and pulls out some money and begins to hand it to Person in Need really discretely.*)

**Person in Need:** (*takes money and holds onto it in plain view*)

**Lefty** (*looks back toward Person in Need and Right Hand Man*) “What’s going on here?”

**Right Hand Man:** (*says to Person In Need*) “Quick put it in your pocket” (*then to Lefty trying to cover up what is happening*) “Huh... what? What do you mean what’s going on?”

**Lefty:** “I mean what are you doing?”

**Right Hand Man:** “What?”

**Lefty:** “Did you just give Person In Need something?”

**Right Hand Man:** “Lefty, it’s top secret. If I told you... I’d have to kill you.” (*then talking to Person In Need:*) “Take it. Go, quick, before anyone sees!”

**Person In Need:** (*runs of stage with money.*)

**Lefty:** (*to self*) “What just happened here?”

**End.**