

An Audience of One

Matthew 6:1-4

¹"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. ²"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.

An Audience of One

Matthew 6:1-4

³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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Super intelligent observations...

- Righteous acts are expected
 - “So when you give...”
- Righteous acts are not for “show”
 - We are not to do good works for our own glory or to try and impress others
 - These types of motivations are common for the hypocrites (religious people of the day)

An Audience of One

Super intelligent observations...

- Righteous acts are to be done in secret
 - Our righteous acts are to come from within our hearts (a secret place that only God can see)
- Righteous acts have rewards
 - Some receive their reward from men
 - Some will receive their reward from God

An Audience of One

Super intelligent observations...

- Righteous acts are expected
 - “So when you give...”
- Example of Sodom

An Audience of One

Ezekiel 16:44-50

⁴⁴ " 'Everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb about you: "Like mother, like daughter."

⁴⁵ You are a true daughter of your mother, who despised her husband and her children; and you are a true sister of your sisters, who despised their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite. ⁴⁶ Your older sister was Samaria, who lived to the north of you with her daughters;

An Audience of One

Ezekiel 16:44-50

and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you with her daughters, was Sodom. ⁴⁷ You not only walked in their ways and copied their detestable practices, but in all your ways you soon became more depraved than they. ⁴⁸ As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done.

An Audience of One

Ezekiel 16:44-50

⁴⁹ " 'Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. ⁵⁰ They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

An Audience of One

Super intelligent observations...

- Righteous acts are not for “show”
 - We are not to do good works for our own glory or to try and impress others
 - These types of motivations are common for the hypocrites (religious people of the day)
 - Pitfalls of the Religious person
 - Example of Cain
 - Example of the Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8)

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2 Corinthians 8:1-7

¹And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

²Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich

generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

An Audience of One

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

⁵And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. ⁶So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

An Audience of One

Super intelligent observations...

- Righteous acts are to be done in secret
 - Our righteous acts are to come from within our hearts (a secret place that only God can see)
 - Example from Paul (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

An Audience of One

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

An Audience of One

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

An Audience of One

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!