

Sunday May 30, 2021  
Matthew 6:1-4  
Applied Christianity: Motive is Everything

S \_\_\_\_\_ an A \_\_\_\_\_

When our r \_\_\_\_\_ becomes an a \_\_\_\_\_, we cross the line  
into h \_\_\_\_\_.

When our g \_\_\_\_\_ becomes t \_\_\_\_\_, we lose our r \_\_\_\_\_.

S \_\_\_\_\_ our A \_\_\_\_\_

When you g \_\_\_\_\_, do so s \_\_\_\_\_.

When you g \_\_\_\_\_, do so s \_\_\_\_\_.

When you g \_\_\_\_\_, do so s \_\_\_\_\_.

S \_\_\_\_\_ the A \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_ is our r \_\_\_\_\_.

## Devotional Thought

There is just something about giving a gift to someone that brings joy to our hearts, isn't there? All of our granddaughters are wonderfully gracious when they receive gifts, but I will never forget on Hayes' second birthday, Sonya and I gave her a pair of shoes. When she pulled the first shoe out, her face lit up, and she said, "A SHOE!" as if it were the greatest gift she had ever received. Then she pulled out the other shoe, and she cried out, "ANUDDER ONE!" Oh, how we laughed, but she was so very sincere in her joy and in her gratitude.

I think that God loves it when we learn how to be gracious recipients of gifts, but He loves it even more when we learn how to be gracious givers. And the truth is, I have discovered in recent years how much more I enjoy giving than receiving. Don't get me wrong – I still love to receive gifts, but one of my greatest joys is to see a face light up when the gift is just right.

But I have also found out that there is something even better than giving someone a gift – it's giving the gift anonymously. Have you ever done it? If not, try it. There is an amazing rush of adrenaline when you pull it off – when you give the gift and then watch the person trying to figure out who the giver was.

That's what Jesus is talking about in our Scripture today. When we give, we should do it in such a way that we don't receive the credit. It should all go to the Father. After all, everything that we "own" truly belongs to Him, and He has allowed us to "manage" it in a way that would show His love to people who desperately need it. So ask yourself:

1. What does my heart more good? To give or to receive?
2. When I do give, what is my motivation? To be thanked? Or to be a blessing?
3. How can I be a blessing to someone in need this week?