

Obeying Jesus – Series Focus

- In his last moments on earth with his core disciples, Jesus said, "Go and make disciples... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded" (Matt 28:18-20)
- So, what are these commands that sincere, authentic followers of Jesus should be obeying?
- In our **Obeying Jesus: 7 Commands for Every Disciple** series, we will look closely at those teachings and practices that Jesus presented as basic and foundational to faithfully following him as his disciples in the world
- 7 Commands: repent & believe, baptism, communion, loving God & neighbor, prayer, giving, & making disciples

Right Hand Giving

- Jesus affirmed that the heart of God is to give to those in need. He commands us to give, but he condemns the giving that is done in order to be seen by other people.
- The Pharisees gave this way to make themselves look good and feel better about themselves, therefore, God wasn't getting all of the glory in their giving.
- In Right Hand Giving (6 of 7), we will see how we are to give in a way that the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. What does this look like today?

Jesus, Matthew 6:1-4 NIV

- ¹ "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others 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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Jesus, Matthew 6:19-21 NIV

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Mark 12:38-40 NIV

³⁸ As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

Mark 12:41-44 NIV

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Paul, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Right Hand Giving

"Right Hand Giving" reflection questions:

- 1. Where did you sense a "yes" in this morning's service?
- 2. Where did you sense resistance?
- 3. Will you reflect on the last time you gave alms?
- 4. Will you reflect on a time alms were given to you?



Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at: www.christiansburgmennonite.org