

GENEROUS GODLY GIVING, GIVES GODLY SATISFACTION!
DEMANDS OF THE KINGDOM
MATTHEW CH6:1-4

ILLUSTRATION

I can't get no satisfaction, I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no - A song by the Rolling Stones!

MOTIVATION THAT LEADS TO HYPOCRISY! V1-2

The hypocrites loved to announce their giving to the needy with “trumpets”. We are also prone to “blowing our own trumpets” when responding to the needs of others.

1. Chuck Feeney

American businessman Chuck Feeney finally hit his financial goal in December 2016. Feeney wasn’t trying to break a million dollars in the bank or even a billion. The philanthropist’s goal was to give money away until he had depleted his fortune. Feeney wanted to enjoy giving away his money while still alive. In 2012, Feeney had \$1.5 billion to give away, and he was already 81 years old. In total, Feeney’s Atlantic Philanthropies organization has given away \$8 billion to scientific research, higher education, human rights, and public health initiatives.

2. Tim Cook

This Apple CEO is also planning a zero balance curtain call. Tim, 56, currently gives money to various charities and causes. He’s recently announced that he plans to give his entire fortune to worthy causes. In 2015, Cook told Fortune that he’s planning to give his wealth away after he’s gone, leaving just enough to put his nephew through college. Based on the worth of his Apple stock holdings, Cook could boast a fortune of \$120 million. Unlike his predecessor, the iconic Apple frontman Steve Jobs, Cook is highly vested in charitable giving.

3. Warren Buffett

Warren Buffett may seem like one of the more obvious philanthropists who likes to give money to worthy causes. He’s worth a second mention, though, because of the staggering amount of money he’s managed to give away. Buffett has given away over \$21.5 billion. That’s more than many so-called rich people ever manage to make in a lifetime. And Buffett has pledged to give away 99 percent of whatever’s left when he passes. The Berkshire Hathaway CEO has united with ultra-wealthy couple Bill and Melinda Gates to create “[The Giving](#)

[Pledge](#).” This organization encourages wealthy people to donate the bulk of their wealth to good causes. Buffett gave away 20 percent of his shares in the company to various charities, worth about \$21.8 billion. And that was just in 2015. He gave a similar amount in 2014. He has continued to distribute about 4 percent of his stock to charity every year since then.

4. Ted Turner

Ted Turner hasn’t just generously given Americans back their classic beloved movies from bygone days. Turner also likes to give money to a number of charities. His lifetime donation sum is about half of his current net worth, according to [Business Insider](#). The former CEO of Turner Broadcasting is the trustee of the Turner Global Foundation, which supports wildlife and environmental conservation. He also donates to the UN Foundation. In 1997, Turner pledged \$1 billion to the Foundation, making the last payment in 2014.

5. J.K. Rowling

All things are relative when it comes to money. Author J.K. Rowling “only” peaked in wealth at a net worth of \$1 billion, but she is still one of the richest authors who ever lived. Well, that’s until she decided to give money away at such a rate that she knocked herself right out of the Billionaire’s Club. From single mother on welfare to international superstar author, J.K. Rowling has ridden a real roller coaster to fame and fortune. She hit the Billionaires List in 2004, thanks to her series of young adult fantasy books (and movies and merchandise). However, by 2012, she had given away \$160 million, about 16 percent of her entire fortune.

A CALL TO BE DIFFERENT!

MOTIVATION THAT LEADS TO HONOUR! V3

What does JESUS mean when He says “..... when you give to the needyin v2 + v3? Firstly JESUS expects His disciples, His citizens, members of His Kingdom to be generous grace givers!

Secondly, JESUS expects His generous grace givers to give with the right motivation! *A call to be different* compared to the hypocrites in the synagogue who exposed their vanity, a profound feeling of pride about their own ability, by announcing their giving with trumpets! Self centred sins being met by how we are seen by men! JESUS expects our motivation to be different!

But how is this different to Ch5:16? I'm confused, are our deeds meant to be seen or not? Does JESUS not contradict Himself in Ch5:16?

How awesome our Saviour is! In Ch5:16 JESUS is dealing with the sin of “cowardice” and here in Chapter 6:3, He deals with the sin of “vanity” A.B. Bruce nails it when he says “Show when tempted to hide and hide when tempted to show”.

The “..... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” can be understood in this way; when you give to the needy only allow God to know. Calvin says “he means that we ought to be satisfied with having God for our only witness.” Literally, when you give to the needy, only let God know and forget about it!

MOTIVATION THAT LEADS TO HEAVENLY REWARDS! V4

What is the reward mentioned in v1, v2, v4? For the hypocrite in v2, with their motivation being the praise they can receive from men, their reward is given in that praise as they blow their own trumpets, either literally or metaphorically!

But the reward that comes from God, what is that? Is it a public reward, as in, will others see it? Or is it a future reward, something that we will receive when we reach our final destination, heaven? Or is it something we can receive now?

If we are prepared to help the needy, prompted by the love in us from God to love our neighbour as ourselves, we respond to the need by giving, and in that giving, where only God sees what is done, we receive the reward in full there and then, knowing that the need has been met and it has pleased God! Then we are truly satisfied!

The reward is neither public or futuristic, but immediate!

On the one hand it is truly fantastic that the likes of Chuck Feeney, Tim Cook, Warren Buffett, Ted Turner and J.K.Rowling have between them given away an estimated \$29 billion, that's fantastic! However JESUS says be generous in your giving to the needy, but don't let the whole world know about it, don't let your family know about it or your Church, just God, and through the realisation that the need has been met and only your Father in heaven knows, you will receive the reward in full, being JESUS CENTRED, JESUS AUTHORISED, AND JESUS AUTHENTICATED SATISFACTION!

APPLICATION

Reflect on your generous grace giving.

Reflect on your giving to the needy.

Reflect, do some “hard thinking” on the words of JESUS!