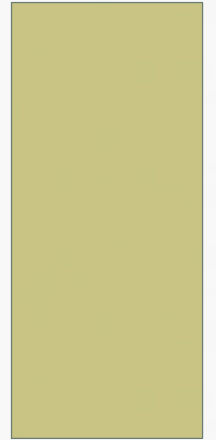




# MATTHEW 6

SERMON ON THE MOUNT



# INTRODUCTION

- **6:1-4 Giving to the Needy**
- **6:5-14 Prayer**
- **6:16-18 Fasting**
- **6:19-24 Treasures in Heaven**
- **6:25-34 Do Not Worry**





# RECEIVED THEIR REWARD IN FULL

- “reward” in Matthew
- Now Jesus is using 3 religious practices as proof of piety and looking at what is really going on.
- The verb translated “have” (ἀπέχουσιν) was at that time a technical term in commercial transactions; it meant to ‘receive a sum in full and give a receipt for it.’ “Paid in full”



# RECEIVED THEIR REWARD IN FULL

- So the hypocrites who seek applause for their giving of alms, long prayers, and attention for fasting will receive just that. But then they will have all the reward they will get. They will get nothing further, especially divine favor and blessing from such an empty act.

# GIVING TO THE NEEDY

- When doing acts of mercy, charity, to give alms—
- Kind deed, charitable giving
- “Nothing is more marked in rabbinic ethics than the stress laid upon charity in every sense of the word.”
- “Almsgiving weighs as much as all the other commandments”





# ILLUSTRATION IN RABBIS

- **Rabbi Levi says, “There are three sorts of nuts: Perek, or soft-shelled, middling, and stony ones. The first variety can be opened of themselves; the second break if you knock them; the third are very hard to break, and if you beat them on a stone and break them, nevertheless you gain no good. So it is with Israel.**



# 3 NUTS

- **There are those among them who give charity of themselves, unasked, these are like the soft-shelled nuts. There are some, again, who, if asked for charity, give it at once; these are like the middling nuts. Finally, there are others, from whom, even if you press them a number of times, you get no good.”**

# CHARITY AND HEALTH



- **Rabbi Levi quoted the proverb: “the door which is not open to charity is open to the doctor.” [i.e., those who do not give charity when in health, either will fall ill, or promise to give when sick.]**



# RABBI HIYYAH

- **“He who turns his eyes away from almsgiving is as if he worshipped idols.”**



# DO NOT SOUND A TRUMPET

- It may refer to the blowing of the trumpet for the public fasts.
- Or, to make the trumpet-shaped money-box resound by flinging the money hard. [drawing attention to the act of giving]



# NT PASSAGES ON ALMSGIVING



- **Luke 11:41**
- **Luke 12:33**
- **Acts 3:1-10 Beggar healed who expected alms**
- **Acts 10:4, 31 Cornelius and alms**
- **Acts 24:17 Paul gave alms**
- **Acts 9:36—Tabitha (Dorcas) gave alms**

# THE HYPOCRITE

- **Actor, interpreter, none who impersonates another; one who assumes a role and identity that were not his own and performed for the audience's approval."**





# JESUS' USE OF THEATRE

- **Did Jesus himself attend that theatre? while no certain answer to this question can be given, the use of hypokriteṣ in all 4 sources behind the Synoptics strongly suggests that Jesus was familiar with stage actors. His vivid comparisons between actors and religious showmen are intelisible if he and his audience were acquainted with professional actors.**

# JESUS' USE OF THEATRE

- Since actors were held in contempt by the more reactionary and conservative religious leaders, the comparison drawn by Jesus would have been all the more obnoxious. The presence of a theatre at Sepphoris, coupled with Jesus' frequent description of the scribes and Pharisees as actors,





# JESUS' USE OF THEATRE

**raises some provocative questions....  
Even the style of Jesus' teachings exemplifies a unique dramatic quality. He appropriated the rabbinic form of parables and developed the māshāl into a creative, lively, and challenging vehicle for proclaiming the arrival of a new age.**



# JESUS' USE OF THEATRE

- The awareness that Jesus matured and worked in a cultural setting where traditional Judaism was struggling to preserve its identity against alien Hellenistic Roman influences leads one to view Jesus and his ministry in a new light. (R.A. Batey, (1984). "Jesus and the Theatre." *New Testament Studies* 30, p. 563.



# RIGHT HAND, LEFT HAND

- **Quote from John R.  
W. Stott**



# 139 OT PASSAGES ON THE POOR

- **Psalm 12:2--“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.”**

