

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF YOU?

How many believe this book to be the Word of God?

What do I mean by that? Penned by human writers but inspired by Holy Spirit

The Bible offers direction –council and power

But is also gives us cautions, and warning signals

President James Madison wrote

We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.



Joke: *Dust to Dust*

If the only thing your Bible is doing is collecting dust it's time you discovered its power

Matthew 6: 1-4 NLT

Caution signs

¹“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ²When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Verse 1 begins with a warning from Jesus, Watch **Out!**

The same verse in the Message reads – 1, 2

“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.

Jesus attaches an *ominous warning* to this teaching –not about bad actions or behaviors but about **good intentions!**

A well known 12th Century Proverb: “The Road to Hell is paved with good intentions”

But Jesus wasn't putting down doing good deeds – He's dealing with intentions: putting on a show for personal gratification

Matt: 5: 14-16

¹⁴“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Jesus, as always is after the truth - going beneath the surface – to what's really in your heart

He asks us to look introspectively...

- What's your true motive?

There are Millions of people who know nothing about God or His rescue **mission to save them** – even people who have attended church most of their lives don't understand it.

- Millennials know little to nothing about Jesus or His word
- They've never heard the concept of *grace* or the word *Gospel*

These people think the way to God and life after death is their **good** works –

Questions: Do you believe in God? What happens after you die?

Answers:

- I'm a good person - I don't steal, or cheat, never killed anyone.
- **Follow up thinking:** If I lead a good life, do more good things than bad, I hope God will take me to Heaven or whatever it is people go when they die.

Christians who understand the concept of grace – are overjoyed that they don't have to face God on the merit of their good deeds!

We know we don't have a leg to stand on when it comes to our righteous deeds its only by faith in what Jesus accomplished

Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

⁶We are all infected and impure with sin.

When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.
Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Do our good deeds matter to God? Jesus said they do when our motives are pure

¹⁶... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Good deeds are important but they don't decide eternal residence!

John 3:18 ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

The question God is going to ask at the end of your life is: Isn't how many good works did you do. They matter and will be judged - The question that God will ask is ... Did you accept my son?

God's gift of grace to the entire world is Jesus – we're not saved by our good works – it's our decision to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord to surrender our life to Him – that's the core of faith

But Good works are important to God – so much so that Jesus issues this stern warning

WATCH OUT!

Good works or deeds must come from the heart and are often spontaneous spur of the moment decisions

Examples:

1. Monica Brand's article: *Anonymous Kindness* (Daily Bread Monday April 2, 2018)
Here's your peppers ...
2. Elementary school crossing guard at Brookfield Ave. who changed an entire community by a smile and wave
3. Teenage girl's of \$1.00 – but her real gift was the thankfulness of her heart – think of how that note she wrote warmed and blessed your heart just now – that's what it does for God's as well

It isn't great feats that make a lasting impact, its the little things that make the biggest difference

4. I was 15 - afraid to do the right thing at school dismissal but the Holy Spirit gently but powerfully refused to let me miss out on the blessing in helping another girl in need

Martin Luther King Jr: "Never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared o the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way."

I believe that most people start out with good intentions but something causes the best intentions to sometimes go all wrong

[Matthew 6:1-2](#) Jesus' warning

¹"Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

²When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth; they have received all the reward they will ever get.

Jesus is referring the Pharisees – a religious order revered by the Jewish people

Pharisees keep all the rules – which gave them the wrong idea that they were **holier** than everyone else causing God see them as special – they became cold hearted elitists

They started out intending to do good but lost what mattered most to God – kindness and caring for others

Eugene Peterson's writes about Pharisees:

Jesus warned about self deception – especially when your intention is to do the right thing!

Heather: Sarah Young, author of *Jesus Always* daily devotional readings testimony:

Readers have called her daily readings – not only inspirational – but life saving

Sarah has been contending with poor health since 2001 she has chronic vertigo that is so debilitating that she can't drive - must depend on the help of others. But she tells of how God

has used these limitations: Giving her time large blocks of time to pray for her readers- which she considers a God given responsibility and a rewarding privilege even when she has been hospitalized she has not missed a day of praying for her readers.

What Does God want from us?

[John 4:23](#) (NLT) Jesus speaking

²³ But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. **The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.**

True worshippers don’t worship with lip service – they worship in spirit and in truth – they worship God with their lives – by the way that they live by the things that they do

Jesus said the Father is looking for ... seeking for a person who worship Him that way – That person can’t help but be blessed by God

[Micah 6:8](#) English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

Let’s pray