

## Real Charity

### Scripture

“Then He also said to him who invited Him, ‘When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite [the] poor, [the] maimed, [the] lame, [the] blind and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just’” (Luke 14:12-14 NKJV).

### Commentary

The way to real charity is giving in secret and giving to those who cannot repay. We give in secret that we might not get back in accolades the value of our gift. As it is written, “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matthew 6:3-4 NKJV).

Why do people have to be told this? It is because “the heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked . . .” (Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV) We deceive ourselves quite easily. Therefore, the Lord gives us tools to keep us on the right path. So, the Lord says give to the poor, be charitable to those who have no means of repaying you.

Humility will lead a man to check his motives. The proud man will spurn such advice as unnecessary assuring himself that what he does is just. This failure to look at ourselves is a great weakness. Think about your life. Do you give to those who really cannot repay? Do you really give in secret?

You say, “I give to my church in secret.” Do you get a tax document at the end of the year? Someone saw your checks. I am not suggesting that you not give to the church, or even that you start giving cash, but do look for opportunities to give to the truly poor. More importantly, check your motives carefully for, “He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy [is] he” (Proverbs 14:21 NKJV).

### Prayer

Father, we are so easily deceived by our own hearts. Give us grace to walk in humility. Strip away our excuses and reveal our true heart. “For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) Do the work that we need done Lord for it is in the name of Jesus we ask. Amen.