

Morning Sermon June 7, 2020  
"Christ's Secret Agents" Matthew 6:1-4

## Secret Agent Man

Johnny Rivers

There's a man who leads a life of danger  
To everyone he meets he stays a stranger  
With every move he makes another chance he takes  
Odds are he won't live to see tomorrow  
Secret agent man, secret agent man

...  
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### I. "When" not if (you do a charitable deed)

**when you do a charitable deed – Matthew 6:2**

...<sup>3</sup> **But when you do a charitable deed... Matthew 6:3**

*This passage is a lot like James 1:2 - <sup>2</sup>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, James 1:2 (NKJV)*

1. *Charitable deeds, good works are not optional for the Christian. We are not saved by good works, except by Christ's good work on the cross, yet we are saved in order to do good works –*

A. *Our salvation is by grace and through faith, God saves -*

<sup>8</sup> **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

B. *We are His workmanship, His masterpiece, His artwork, His beautiful poem, our lives should have a made by God, crafted by Christ- quality about them -*

<sup>10</sup> **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)**

2. *When means "good works" are inevitable for us, even the hypocrites do them, we need to excel them – do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do... Matthew 6:2*  
<sup>20</sup> **For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)**

### II. Do not be a popular man pleaser –

<sup>6</sup> **Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. Matthew 6:1–2 (NKJV)**

1. *The Pharisees were man-pleasers, like politicians, they wanted your vote, they like so many, wanted "likes" on Facebook ...*

2. *They received their reward, they were elected, they were popular, they reached the top –*

<sup>26</sup> **Woe to you when all men speak well of you,... For so did their fathers to the false prophets. Luke 6:26 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> **For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Mark 8:36 (NKJV)**

3. *What a challenge this is today ...*

A. *Social media*

B. *Advertising -*

*Advertising is part of our culture. I think too, we might have a Biblical okay for the right kind of God-glorifying advertising in this very Sermon on the Mount when Jesus says, ---*

<sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)**

*There has to be a balance, letting your light SHINE, letting people SEE your good works, seems almost opposite of not letting you left hand know what your right hand is doing? The heart of it, has to be your heart, truly desiring God's glory rather than your own! This leads to the next point -*

### III. *Be a secret God pleaser –*

<sup>3</sup> But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> 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)

*What are we talking about here?*

1. *Anonymous giving - do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing – Matthew 6:3*

2. *Favors without fanfare, no trumpets – do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do... Matthew 6:2*

A. *This is how Jesus was on earth – (Despite the fact He was and is King) -*

42 “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out, nor raise *His voice*, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. Isaiah 42:1–2 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel (KJV strive) nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. Matthew 12:18–19 (NKJV)

B. *This is how we are to be, humble ... Christ-like –*

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> **but made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV)

3. *Pleasing God with good works –*

<sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

4. *Pleasing God requires “faith” –*

<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

A. *Faith is a prerequisite*

B. *God is a Rewarder, this leads to the next point –*

### IV. *Consider the Rewards –*

Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven... Matthew 6:1

that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. Matthew 6:2 (NKJV)

and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. Matthew 6:4 (NKJV)

1. *Some think it wrong to serve God for rewards, even Heavenly rewards ... that idea is not taught in Scripture!*

2. *We are told to seek Heavenly rewards rather than earthly*

A. *Rewards from the Father, not men*

B. *Rewards possibly in this life, eternally in the next*

3. *Note Christ Himself won rewards - Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)*

4. *The great reward we should desire from Christ –*

<sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>22</sup> He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ <sup>23</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ Matthew 25:21-23

*Note this is temporal in the form of increased opportunities of service, and eternal Enter into the joy of your lord. - :21 & :23*

*Arnold Brevick*