



theme: Discipleship – Hide The Trumpet (Matt 6:1-4)

materials: Bibles, Paper, Pencils

What social justice/action issues should matter most to us? How is social action and salvation linked? Should we only serve people in order to see them become Christians? What should we think about partnerships between government and religion? What social needs do you see around you? To what form of social action might God be calling you?

welcome

Do some charity on the last person who comes into cell. Give them a great seat, make a big fuss over them, have everyone offer them stuff to drink or eat, pamper them, but don't let them know what is going on. When you do finally let them know, ask how it felt to be treated like that in front of everyone. What motivates people to "do" charity?

interact

What are you thankful for? Make a list of all the things over the last week that you have received from God. Have you been properly thankful for all these gifts? Spend time as a cell thanking God in whatever way you feel appropriate (singing, praying, dancing, rapping, whichever) for all His good gifts to us.

read

Read Matthew 6:1-4.

This is a short passage, so ask everyone to try and sum it up or rewrite it in their own words.

Why are we so eager to let people know about all the good things we do? What are the dangers?

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus teaches that we are to let our "light shine before all men so that they may see our good deeds and praise our father in heaven." How does this match up with the instruction a chapter later to not let other people see our "acts of righteousness"?

Why is Jesus teaching us to show our good deeds on one hand, and then to hide them on another?

Have you ever been in the position of having to receive "charity"? If you have, how does that feel? If you haven't, how do you suspect it might feel?

What are some of the big obstacles to doing good?

think

Find a way, as a cell group, to do some good this week in total secrecy, not letting anyone else know you are doing it. Plan it out in some detail now, and arrange to do it later on in the week.

live & pray

Extend your cell activity to yourself. Be a secret James Bond giver this week. Try to do as much good as you can this week with absolutely no one knowing it is you doing it!



useful resources

Book: *Down and Out in London and Paris*, by George Orwell

Book: *Rich Christians In An Age of Hunger*, by Ron Sider

Movie: *Amelie*

leader's guide

It is a nice feeling to be known as someone who does a lot of good. This feeds our ego, and justifies some of the comforts we have for ourselves. But Jesus warns us here against the serious dangers of self-promotion. And he gives a solution: do things in secret, don't seek praise for them, ensure that your motives are right.

The possible benefits for people seeing good deeds are recognizing that God is good, and that He is motivating us to do good things. This might also motivate others. But the dangers are of course pride, and feeling like we are somehow better than others.

Motivation truly matters. We should naturally be doing good and loving people because God loves us, and because we know that God loves others. So when we truly follow Christ, good works will be natural, and others will see them and praise God. But when we start doing charity simply to get that praise, when we start announcing to the world all the good things we do, then we start seeking the praise instead of giving it to God.

Doing good can be incredibly difficult. People often aren't thankful, others distrust what you're up to, others are threatened that you are trying to take over their territory. We also have a hard time seeing the big picture, so some good we do might actually be causing more harm. This is why prayer is so important to justice. Spend time asking God what is on His heart, and then do good in obedience to what God reveals to you.