

Friends,

I was once caught doing a good deed for someone. A man in a wheelchair was coming out of a store and he was holding a piece of paper. A big gust of wind met him and the paper went flying down the road. I saw it happen and so, without really thinking, I pulled my vehicle over and ran after that paper. After returning the paper to the man, he was very appreciative. And a good Christian only does a good deed if it's done in secret, right? And so I looked around to make sure no one I knew was looking. The coast was clear.

But then, on Sunday morning at church a lady stood up during joys and concerns and said "I want to announce that I saw a God moment." I had this feeling like she was talking about my good deed. In fact, she was. She announced to the whole church what I had done. And the whole time I was thinking to myself, "she's ruining it. We're supposed to do our deeds in secret. This is exactly the thing I was trying to avoid."

There is a part of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus tells his followers that they are 'light'. And he then tells them "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). But in the next chapter he says, "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:1).

So which is it? Do we let our good deeds be seen or do we do our good deeds in secret? Both of these statements are from the Sermon on the Mount. Is Jesus contradicting himself? Of course, the answer is no. So what is he teaching us?

When you live your life in The Kingdom, you are being led by Christ (through the Spirit). If Christ is telling you to do a good deed, do it. If it is seen by others, it will encourage them. If it is not, you will be rewarded in the Kingdom by the Father.

Put differently, you shouldn't do good deeds for the purpose of being seen by others. But you also shouldn't abandon good deeds that Christ is leading you to do if others are watching. That would be just as silly.

May you let your light shine! And remember, the light is Christ! -Jon