

# Good Works that Rob God – Matthew 6:2-4

**Matthew 6:2-4** teaches that good works robbing God of glory rob you of reward. Don't rob God of His glory! Wait for your reward. [Illustrated by collections – Everyone seeks to “collect” glory from other people for personal fulfillment.]

- Central statement: “That they may be praised by others.” Unveils self-glorifying motive.
- “Praised” translates a word commonly translated “glory” or “glorify.” See **John 5:44**.

**Problem:** Jesus denies that those seeking self-glory truly believe in and love God.

- Jesus diagnoses the symptoms of self-glorification and presents a pattern of deferment.

## 1. Self-glorification: Good works that rob God of glory demand attention from other people

*“What our Lord forbids is therefore not publicity in performing good deeds, which is often necessary and therefore proper, but ostentatious publicity, for the purpose of attracting attention and gaining applause.”* – Broadus

- ✓ Good works that rob God make a scene (“sound a trumpet” is a figurative expression meaning to make a scene).
- ✓ Good works that rob God are forgotten by God (“have received” – “to have entirely, have the whole of, have in full.” – Broadus. Fully received – You expended your effort on what you just received only. Opposite of an investment).

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Committed followers of Christ will refrain from modeling the practice of Christianity on the patterns of pop culture.

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**APPLICATION:** Today's culture obsesses over self-glorification. Sports, super models, shopping, entertainment, and false religion feed the sinful desire to exalt self. Ultimately, all self-glorification ends in some form of destruction (**James 1:15**). Committed followers of Christ will refrain from modeling the practice of Christianity on the patterns of culture.

## 2. Deferment: Good works that glorify God defer attention from people (vv. 3-4)

*“Let us never forget this, the Christian at one and the same time is to be attracting attention to himself [5:16], and yet not attracting attention to himself.”* – Lloyd-Jones

- ✓ Good works that glorify God are spontaneous and uncalculated (“do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”)
- ✓ Good works that glorify God are purposefully discrete (“so that your giving may be in secret”)
- ✓ Good works that glorify God invest in divinely ordained rewards (“And your Father . . . will reward you”)
- God rewards in full – pressed down, overflowing! (Not like a box of cereal)
- Types of reward: Plenty (**Prov. 11:24**), Security from want (**Prov. 28:27**), Help in distress (**Psalms 41:1-2**), Honor and a good name (**Psalms 112:9**), and Eternal riches (**Luke 14:14**)

*“When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them.”* – Matthew Henry

A point of testing: *“If we cease our charitable deeds because men are ungrateful, that shows that we were not aiming to please and honor God.”* – Martin Luther

**APPLICATION:** Your Father fills His rewards with the savor of rest. Living in self-forgetfulness removes the strain of fulfilling self-centered desires while insuring those around notice your self-deprecating piety.

## How do you find rest from collecting self-glory?

Option 1: Cease practicing good works. See **Titus 3:8** to check viability.

Option 2: Deny the self-centeredness of your motives. See **Romans 2:2** to check viability.

Option 3: Accept God's diagnosis of your heart and repent. Rejoice that Jesus Christ fulfilled all righteousness so that you could be justified before God and pursue good works for heavenly reward (**Romans 8:1-4**).

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*Your Father fills His rewards with the savor of rest*

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