

Alms done in secret

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:1-4

Many things that are done these days astonish us. Even those things that are done to help the poor are done with a lot of publicity. Even when death occurs, it is being published all over. Therefore, we are living in days of publicity. God is never pleased with such publicities. God is pleased in the alms that is done in secret. When you help someone, what's your intention? Do you do it because you love God or because they would speak ill of you or would continuously trouble you? Can you accept when the good report you were to receive is given to someone else? Even in many churches we see the names of those who donated for the church posted on the building. Even in many Christian organizations, your name will be displayed on the television and books if you give them a certain amount. But God is not pleased with that. The bible warns us on such offerings. From our childhood we have to be taught on how to give.

A woman had taught her daughter about good characters and about the Lord Jesus Christ from her childhood. She was taught that she should help others as much as she could and she should never expect anything in return for her help. One fine day, a completely exhausted young man knocked at their door. The girl came and opened the door. He asked her for some water to drink. The girl perceived that the young man was completely exhausted; she therefore brought him a glass of milk to drink. The person's name was Hallor Helly. He asked the girl how much he had to pay for the glass of milk. The girl refused to receive anything. She said that her mother has taught her that she should not expect anything in turn when she helps someone. He then thanked the girl and left the place. Helly then went on to be a doctor after he had finished his studies with much struggle. Years passed by. A certain day he was called to examine a person affected with a severe sickness. When he looked at the girl who he was about to examine, he remembered seeing her somewhere. When Helly inquired of her whereabouts, he got to know that she was the one who helped her. With a lot of care he gave her treatment. She was healed completely. On the day she was supposed to get discharged from the hospital, she was in great distress not knowing how to pay the expenses of her treatment. She taught

that she would have to work her lifetime to pay off the expenses. Dr. Helly took her bill and wrote behind it 'A glass of milk paid it all' and then sent it to her. Dear brother/sister, in whatever manner you help others, let it not be done so that you will be appreciated or honored or expecting some other help in turn. But rather, let your alms be done in secret, sincerity, out of love and just before God. God who sees it in secret will reward you openly.

Questions:

1. What kind of alms does God hate?
2. What kind of alms does God love?
3. What kind of alms will you do?