



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 4th, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
The Call to Worship	Chris Kimbrell
Hymn	"Praise to the Lord"
The Prayer of Confession and Praise	Cody Wallace
Hymn	"Man of Sorrows"
Hymn	"At the Cross"
The Reading of the Word — <i>Deuteronomy 15:1-11</i>	Hal Pritchard
Hymn	"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"
The Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Winn
The Sermon — <i>"Charitable Deeds" (Matthew 6:1-4)</i>	Pastor Winn
The Observance of The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	"I am Thine, O Lord"
The Benediction	Hal Pritchard
The Postlude	

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Mission Report



COMMENTARY

Society is apt to take notice whenever the wealthy establish a foundation for the sake of charitable giving. Such persons are lauded for their generosity and good work in giving to those in need. More often than not, these people seek this publicity, wanting us to know how open-handed they truly are. The world pursues the accolades of men, but God's people are not to do the same. In fact, if we practice righteousness for the accolades of other people, Jesus tells us we have no reward from our Father in heaven (Matt. 6:1). He applies this general principle to the three chief acts of Jewish piety — almsgiving, prayer, and fasting — beginning in today's passage with giving to the poor. Our Savior warns us against sounding the trumpet when we give. In His own context He may be referring to the priestly blowing of the shofar (a ram's horn trumpet) whenever there is a great need in the community. When this happened in His day, there was often an ostentatious display of men closing up shop and running toward the temple to be the first ones seen responding to the call. Trumpet-shaped collection boxes where money could be deposited to help the poor were present at the temple in the first century A.D., and these may also be the basis for Christ's analogy in verses 2–4. Coins thrown into these boxes might make a loud

noise, announcing that a great gift has been given. In any case, our Lord's point is quite clear: Do not give in order to receive praise from men. As Matthew Henry notes in his commentary, Jesus does not teach that it is always “unlawful to give alms when men see us.” Sometimes the only way we can help others is in front of other people. In keeping with the perfect righteousness Jesus has described in Matthew 5, John Chrysostom reminds us that Christ “is not focusing simply on the outward act done but the inward intent” (Homilies on the Gospel of Saint Matthew, 19.2). Just as under the old covenant (Deut. 15:11), Jesus assumes we will give to the poor, and this must be done in hopes for a reward from God, not from others (Matt. 6:4b). Let us do all we can to give our alms, but with the aim of caring so little for the praise of men that we are ourselves scarcely aware of our own generosity. **Coram Deo:** Augustine says, “The praise of others need not even be sought by one who acts rightly” (Sermon on the Mount, 2.2.5). Keeping track of our giving is not inconsistent with the Lord's admonition that we do not let our right hand know what the left one is doing. Yet we are not to keep track so that we may show others just how good we are. As you give your money to the poor, ask yourself if you desire the praise of men more than God's commendation.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

September 4th
<i>Morning</i> Claire Shores & Wendy Winn
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Mary Margaret Pritchard & Mary Hunter Sharp
<i>Wednesday - September 7th</i> Bridgette Kimbrell (Claire Shores)

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our morning service.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION

Today will be the start of the new Sunday School classes for all children and youth. See Bridgette for more information.

CHILDREN'S CATECHISM RECITATION

All of the children that were in catechism classes over the summer will recite what they have learned today during the afternoon service.

PORTUGAL UPDATE

Today in the afternoon service, Pastor Thomas will give an update on the work being done in Lisbon by Pastor Tiago.

