

Deacon's Beacons

June 30, 2023

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:2–4

Charity is not an act of showing that you have more or are a better person. That is not charity; that is showmanship. Charity comes from the depths of your soul where you feel the needs of others and respond however you can. While this passage talks about shining the light on oneself as being wrong, there is a flip side to that. Shining the light on someone who is less fortunate is equally as wrong. That attacks their dignity as a person. Of course, it may be reasonably obvious that someone needs to have assistance but pointing that out to anyone else when you can help is rather self-serving too. Remember the Golden Rule (which actually comes from the Gospels), to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike