

MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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www.mountainstreamchurch.com

AUDIENCE OF ONE

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 6:1-4
"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "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."

It appears we are living in the "look at me" era. We seem unable to restrain ourselves from publicizing every little thing we do – especially if we think it will make us look "awesome."

And social media makes it so easy!

Jesus warns against this kind of life philosophy: living primarily for the gaze and adulation of people. At first this rebuke seems contrary to the call He gave earlier in this same sermon to "let our lights shine before men" (*Matthew 5:16*). However, a closer look quickly establishes the perfect harmony between these two sentiments. In *Matthew 5:16*, we are encouraged to let the light of Christ radiate through our lives so others may be pointed to God, and as a result glorify Him for the obvious work He is doing in us. In *chapter 6:14*, we are warned to not live to secure the gaze and praise of people for ourselves. In one case, we want to direct attention to Christ. In the other, we want to direct attention to ourselves. The two approaches are mutually exclusive. Either we live to impress other people, or we live to honor God.

Jesus uses the example of charitable giving as a lesson. Charity can be done with a lot of fanfare to garner the praise of men. That is all that will result: fleeting, temporary acclaim from men. Con-

versely, acts of charity can be done in an entirely different manner, and with completely different motives and results. The benevolent act is done secretly and purely for the benefit of the beneficiary. There is no fanfare. No news release. Only God (and maybe the beneficiary) knows what has been done. As God sees this kind of heart in you, He will reward you for your generosity and humility. You were not pursuing any reward. You were just expressing godly compassion. Even if you didn't get rewarded, you would not be bothered, because that was not your goal in the first place. But God chose to graciously reward you.

In light of these realities, how will you live out your righteousness – especially in this "look at me" generation? For the praise of people? Or for the glory of God? Who is your audience as you strive to live in righteousness and generosity?

The masses?

Or The One?

God bless you, Pastor James

REFLECT HIS GREATNESS!



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>February 16 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p>February 21 Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>February 21 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM</p> <p>February 18 (in-person) & February 19 (online) Sign up at the information center or online to join. email: mountainstream-church@gmail.com or call for log on details.</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p>February 19 Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p>February 21 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for our monthly online evening service this Sunday at 7 pm.
- **Virtual Ladies Meeting** Saturday Feb 26th at 10:30 am on Zoom. Contact Candice for login information if necessary.
- **Explore Mountain Stream classes** for folks interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream continue this Sunday at 10 am on the lower level.
- **Growth Groups** continue. Please sign up at the Information Center or online to attend. Thursdays in-person 7 pm at church. Fridays online at 7 pm.
- Kelvin Lewis will be baptized this Sunday following the morning service.
- The **2021 Church Directory** will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website, click the **ABOUT** button at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!