

A. (:1) SETS THE TONE FOR :2-18

1. (:1a) Take Heed = Listen Up, This Is Very Important
 - a. NIV = Be careful; NASB = Beware; NLT = Take Care
 - b. Present, active imperative = be always (beware = be aware constantly)
2. Charitable Deeds = Righteous Living (cf. 5:6)
 - a. NIV = acts of righteousness; NLT = good deeds
 - b. i.e. the God-centered living that is the result of :2-12 (c.f. :6)
 - c. Live right (according to God's definition) w/o concerning yourself w/who sees / knows
3. (:1b) To Be Seen = Motive
 - a. Reward = what kind of result are you looking for?
 - b. (Luke 18:10-12)
 - 1) stood - to be seen
 - 2) prayed with himself (wanted others to think he was praying to God)
 - 3) ...fast twice a week (only once required)
 - 4) tithe... all I possess (tithe on increase)
 - c. (Luke 18:13-14)
 - 1) tax collector - despised (treason, extortion...)
 - 2) ...far off (wouldn't come near)
 - 3) wouldn't raise his eyes (sign of mourning - 5:4)
 - 4) beat breast (sign of remorse)
 - 5) pleading for mercy (not boasting)
 - 6) (:14)
 - d (:1:c) God knows why you do what you do, and it's that motive that matters

B. (:2) THEREFORE = IN LIGHT OF THAT...

1. (:2a) When... - Not If
 - a. That God's people give is an assumption
 - b. In Jesus' day, many people couldn't survive w/o generosity of others
 - d. that God's people give to support the work of the Lord & provide for those in God's family who can't provide for themselves has always been God's way
2. (:2b) Trumpet
 - a. Giving is a given: the question is; who are you trying to impress?
 - b. re. Trumpet calling poor - based on 13 metal trumpet shaped offering boxes
 - c. Luke 21:1 - rich / widows mite
3. Hypocrites = Pretenders
 - a. If the reward sought is acclaim & admiration, that's all you'll get

C. (:3-4) THE WAY IT OUGHT TO WORK

1. (:3) Left Hand / Right Hand ≠ Covert (pride Danger), = W/o Guile Or Duplicity, No Scheming
 - a. Don't keep score (e.g. Bott.)
2. (:4a) Secret = Privately, Not A Display Of Your Devotion Meant For The Public To See
3. (:4b) Rewarded By Father

- a. When you give gladly, with pure motives, to bless God, not to bring attention to how spiritual you are, God will reward you openly
- b. Does the Lord see you sweating? Or does He see you strutting?
 - 1) the “rock star” Xians are gonna be in shock when the Lord calls the name of a “nobody” who’s been quietly working away in the trenches, and gives them a “letter” saying, “Well done...”