MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

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. [2] 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.

Matthew 6:1-4

[3] But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Outline

1. The virtue of mercy
2. The practice of generosity
3. The promise of the kingdom

1. The virtue of mercy

"when you give to the needy" (v. 2)

"Blessed are the merciful…" (Matt. 5:7)

"Mercy to the full range of human needs is such an essential mark of being a Christian that it can be used as a test of true faith. Mercy is not optional or an addition to being a Christian. Rather, a life poured out in deeds of mercy is an inevitable sign of true faith."

—Tim Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*

1. The virtue of mercy

"when you give to the needy" (v. 2)

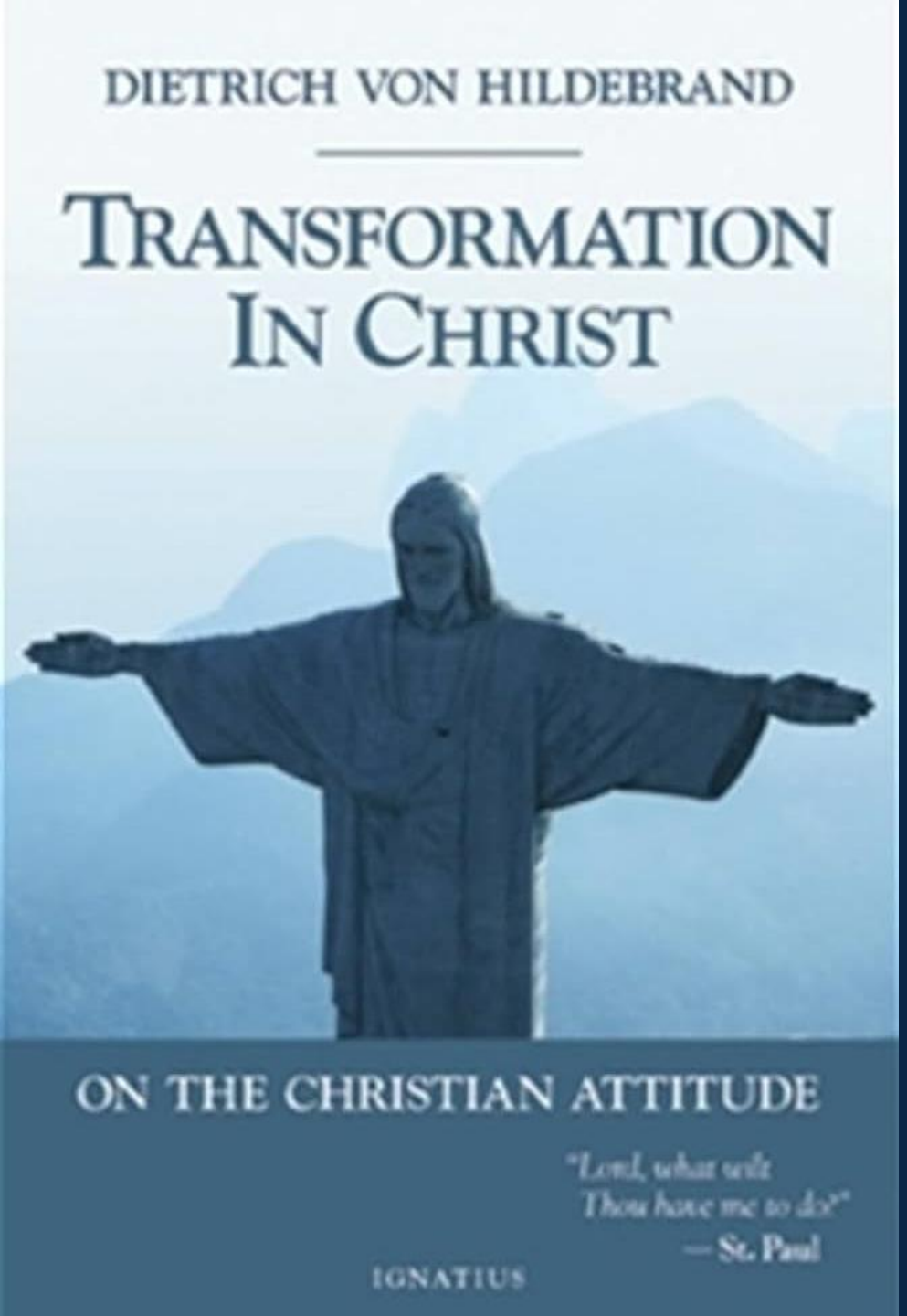
"Blessed are the merciful…" (Matt. 5:7)

1. The Virtue of Mercy

Application

How do we cultivate mercy? Not by trying harder, but by being humbled by the mercy of God toward us.

A merciful heart flows from knowing you were shown mercy while undeserving.



"The way to attain the virtue of mercy lies in our constant awareness of being encompassed by mercy; of the fact that mercy is the air we children of God are breathing. May the mercy of God, of whom the Church says: "With eternal love did the Lord love us, wherefore He drew us, raised from the earth, to His heart in commiseration"…. —may this mercy of God pierce and transform our hearts. May it draw us into the orbit of its all-conquering, liberating, suave power, before which all worldly standards collapse."

1. The virtue of mercy

"when you give to the needy" (v. 2)

"Blessed are the merciful…" (Matt. 5:7)

2. The practice of generosity

"practicing your righteousness…when you give to the needy" (v. 1-2)

"Go to the poor man and tell him of the bread of heaven, but first give him the bread of earth, for how shall he hear you with a starving body? Talk to him of the robe of Jesus's righteousness, but you will do it all the better when you have provided a garment with which he may cover his nakedness."

—Charles Spurgeon

2. The Practice of Generosity

Application

If someone audited my life — not just my theology or my social media — but my actual spending, calendar, and habits — would they see kingdom generosity?

3. The promise of the kingdom

"Your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (v. 4)

Matthew 6:1-4

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3. The promise of the kingdom

"Your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (v. 4)

2. The Practice of Generosity

Application

Jesus calls us to quiet generosity. Can I give without announcing? Can I serve without posting? Can I meet a need and let no one know? This quiet generosity has its own reward, in the loving gaze, parental approval, and faithful provision of the Father.

Luke 12:32-34

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. [33] Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. [34] For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

3. The promise of the kingdom

"Your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (v. 4)

Conclusion: The Mercy of Jesus

Jesus was the "true and better" Good Samaritan

“The only true and enduring motivation for the ministry of mercy is an experience and a grasp of the grace of God in the gospel.”

—Tim Keller

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