



TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

DERICK BINGHAM B.A.

There IS an **ALTERNATIVE**

- *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* -

TUESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 1992

Subject: 'Beware! Religious Performance Now Showing'

Matthew 6:1-8

1. **A problem:** Does 6:1 contradict 5:16? No: The answer is 'Show when tempted to hide and hide when tempted to show.'
2. **Beware when you give (v2-4):**
 - (a) Beware of seeking the praise of men.
 - (b) Beware of secret self-congratulation.
 - (c) Beware of standing with a fiver in one hand and a trumpet in the other.
 - (d) Beware that an act of mercy doesn't turn into an act of vanity.
3. **A question of reward:** Why should we shun the praise of men and yet seek it from God? Does this not merely exchange one form of vanity for another? No, because:
 - (a) The contrast is not between a secret gift and a public reward but between the people who neither see nor reward the gift and the God who does both.
 - (b) The reward which God gives is neither necessarily public nor necessarily future. When through your gifts the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, the sick healed, the oppressed fed, the lost saved, the love which prompted the gift is satisfied.
4. **Beware when praying! (v5-7):**
 - (a) Beware of praying to be seen by people.
 - (b) Beware of missing the blessings to be found in the secret place. The Greek word is 'Tameion' which is the store room where the treasure is kept.
 - (c) Beware of using prayer as a pious cloak for self-love.

'A painted harlot is less dangerous than a painted hypocrite.'

- WILLIAM SECKER