

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Deflecting and Reflecting All Praise to Christ *Matthew 6:1-4*

Our primary aim is to follow Jesus, worship and glorify Him.

The devil wants counterfeit not authenticity, fans rather than competitors. The fanatical mindset emphasizes fitting in and presentation, the disciple’s mindset focuses on winning and the prize.

Matthew 5: Christian character and behavior, what God expects and demands.

Matthew 6: Jesus paints a picture of the Christian living in the world in the presence of God that Father, in active submission to the leading of Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit.

Live as a child in relationship with the Father rather than a fan.

FANS often find themselves in misery and unhappiness.

The Christian should always be eager to know himself.

The natural man thinks he knows himself, and that is his DOWNFALL

THE DELICATE NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

A PARADOX PRESENTED

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.” Matthew 6:1

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

- What Jesus calls a halt to is the joy we get from making our Christianity VISIBLE. He calls us to reflect on what we are doing.

“Our activity must be visible, but never be done for the sake of making it visible.” ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- The Christian at one and the same time is to be attracting attention to himself, and yet NOT attracting attention to himself.

OUR ULTIMATE CHOICE: CHOOSING TO PLEASE SELF OR GOD

SIN’S SUBTLETY

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.” Matthew 6:1

- What appears to be selfless may be just a very subtle form of SELFISHNESS.
- Man by nature desires the praise of man more than the praise of God. In desiring the praise of man, he’s really concerned about his GOOD opinion of self.

EACH INDIVIDUAL'S SUPREME MATTER: RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

**AS CHRIST, OUR SUPREME OBJECT SHOULD BE TO PLEASE GOD,
ALWAYS!**

“How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?” John 5:44

- We are so concerned about man. If we only had a single eye to the GLORY and honor of God, all would be well (Romans 1:21).

WE ARE ALWAYS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD – ALWAYS IN HIS SIGHT!

- He sees it all and KNOWS your heart!

THE WRONG WAY – ANNOUNCE IT!

- SELF-righteousness

“Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.” Matthew 6:2

CHRIST'S VISION – VOLUNTARY BLINDNESS

- Blinded by the LIGHT.

“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” Matthew 6:3

SEEKING REWARDS THAT GOD GIVES

THE NEGATIVE – SOUNDING THE DEATH TOLL FOR THE OLD MAN.

- If we want the public eyes of men, we have our REWARD. It doesn't matter whether the publicity we desire is the type all can see, or the more subtle variety which we can only see.

THE POSITIVE – DO THE RIGHT THING.

- If we are CONTENT, willing to carry on with our life hidden from our eyes, we will receive our reward openly from God.
- Genuine love is always SELF-forgetful in the true sense of the word.

Cutting it Straight HOW IS THIS PARADOX TO BE RESOLVED?

Romans 7:15, 18a, 23 – 8:1

1. From whom are we to hide the visibility of our discipleship?

- If is not from others we are to hide our extraordinariness, but rather we are to hide it from OURSELVES.
- Hebrews 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

**2. How do the visible and invisible dynamics of discipleship work?
How can the same life be visible and hidden?**

- The CROSS is the invisible, hidden. The extraordinary is the visible.

3. How do we resolve the contrast between Matthew 5 & 6?

- Turn your eyes upon JESUS, or keep your eyes on SELF and display your own virtue and not that which has it's source in Jesus Christ.
- Take heed that you do not exchange TRUE love (extraordinary) for a sociable virtuousness, a human quality or ability.

GOD KEEPS THE BOOKS

- What utter fools we are to keep accounts, not realizing that if we do so we will not get a reward from God.
- Matthew 25:31-46.

WE WILL ONLY FIND OURSELVES AS WE LIVE “IN CHRIST”

- Galatians 2:20
- The farther the distance between the truth of your sinfulness, depravity, utter despair and the righteousness of Christ, the more sold out you will be!

For completed notes of today's sermon, visit the FFC website – www.faithfellowship.us.