**August 18, 2019 “Do Not Be Like the Hypocrites” Matthew 6: 1-18**

When Jesus sat down on the mountain to deliver this sermon which we call “the Sermon on the Mount” He did so with the express purpose of laying bare the falsehoods that were being perpetrated on the Jewish people by their so-called “teachers of the law”. Jesus did not go into long discourse on each subject mentioned but rather He, in just a few words, laid open their hypocrisies to the bone thereby exposing those falsities in the clearest method possible.

Perhaps the first place we should start in our study of today is to lay out the meaning the word “hypocrite”. The dictionary gives us this definition… “a person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that he or she does not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie stated beliefs.”

That’s the dictionary definition but here is God’s definition, Isaiah 1:11-15

Here is the cure… Isaiah 1:16-17

Here is how you take your medicine so the cure can take effect… Isaiah 1:18-20

In Matthew 5, which we just worked our way through, Jesus begins by showing the hypocrisy of their entire religious system as taught by the Rabbi’s of His day.

Note:

Matthew 5:2-13… He describes the character of righteousness

Matthew 5:13-16… the influence of righteousness

Matthew 5:17-21… the standard of righteousness

They were wrong in their attitudes about

* Murder and anger
* Adultery and lust
* Divorce and the treatment of women
* Making of oaths and the subsequent loop-holes
* Views on retaliation
* View of love and hate
* Misunderstanding of what it means to be holy

Do you remember what Jesus said to them at the beginning of every subject He broached? He said… “You have heard it said… but I say to you”. You see if our understanding of God’s standard is incorrect… the rest of our life will be out of whack as well.

Have you been asking yourself this question… “what is going on in Christianity today with many defections of so-called leaders and strange practices going on the name of Christ?”

Illustrations…Josh Harris…

* I am no longer a Christian
* I am divorcing my wife of 20 years
* I am apologizing to the LGBT community for any hurt I have caused them
* I want to show them love and forgiveness
  + Where did you see that Josh?
  + Perhaps in the Bible?
  + In the character of Jesus Christ?

Marty Sampson… popular songwriter for Hillsong

* I am genuinely losing my faith
* And it doesn’t bother me
  + Read out loud his latest songs…
* Why is the Bible full of contradictions and nobody is talking about them?

Example Matthew 5:16 and Matthew 6:1… Note the contradiction… what is the difference?

* Let your light shine before men
* Do not practice your righteousness before men

1. Importance of knowing Scriptures
   1. Three vital aspects of Christianity
      1. We have to know what the Bible teaches
         1. Cognitive knowledge
      2. We have to apply what the Bible teaches
         1. Moral standard
      3. Practical application
         1. Everyday application
         2. Matthew 6:19-34
2. To many hypocrites in church
   1. What about outside of the Church?
      1. Author James Howard Kunstler when asked about the recent mass shootings in El Paso and Ohio…

“This is exactly what you get in a culture where anything goes and nothing matters. Extract all the meaning and purpose from being here on earth, and erase as many boundaries as you can from custom and behavior, and watch what happens, especially among young men trained on video slaughter games.”

* 1. Hypocrites were also in the Bible
     1. Cain… Am I my brother’s keeper?
     2. Abraham… she is my sister
     3. King Saul… what is this bleating of sheep I am hearing?
     4. David… send Uriah to the front
     5. Paul… cast their coats at the feet of Saul who is called Paul
     6. Ananias and Sapphire… is this the price?
     7. Peter… I am not eating with those Gentiles (Galatians 2:12)
     8. Diotrephes… who loved to be first
     9. Church at Ephesus… lost their first love
     10. Church at Pergamum… hold to false teachers
     11. Church at Thyatira… tolerate that false prophetess
     12. Church at Sardis… dead but think you are alive
     13. Church at Laodicea… I have need of nothing
  2. Why are all these mentioned?
     1. Take heed and learn the lessons
     2. What lessons?
        1. Worship involves three things
           1. Giving (Matthew 6:2)
           2. Praying (Matthew 6:5)
           3. Fasting (Matthew 6:16)

John 4: 3-24… Is that the desire of our hearts today? To worship Him in Spirit and in Truth?

Do not honor Him with your lips while your heart is far from Him…

Let’s sing: “I will sing of my Redeemer”