

Wednesday January 29, 2014

"The Purpose of the Sermon on the Mount"

Part 9

Matthew 7:13-29

Introduction: For the past 8 studies we have been looking at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount which also contains the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount. I need to remind you again that when Jesus came to the earth He came to save the lost from their sins.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

All the miracles that Jesus performed and the Words He spoke were for the purpose of doing two things:

1. The Words were designed to bring man face to face with his inability to live a life pleasing to God. The Words of the Sermon on the Mount were spoken to help His listeners see their need of forgiveness. Remember what Jesus said earlier in the Sermon on the Mount?

Matthew 5:20

²⁰ for I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus picked the most religious people on the face of the earth and He told His listeners if their righteousness did not exceed the righteousness of the most religious people on the earth there would be no entrance into heaven for them. These words should have opened

Wednesday January 29, 2014

their eyes to the Truth they could not make it to heaven on their own. It should have opened their eyes to the fact that they were lost and in need of God's mercy and grace. It should have caused them to cry out to Jesus, "What must we do to be saved?" But there was something far more shocking which Jesus was saying with His statement in Matthew 5:20 and that was this: **"Religion will not get a person into heaven!"**

This is a shocking statement when it is made in our world today. We live in a society in which many people are religious but they are not saved. They are trusting in their "religion" to get them to heaven and it will not happen. Religion is not salvation. I remember reading years ago that a man said, "Religion is man reaching up to God: salvation is God reaching down to man".

2. The miracles which Jesus performed were to show He was Who He claimed to be.

Matthew 9:2-6

² And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

³ And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

⁴ And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

⁵ For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

Wednesday January 29, 2014

⁶ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Jesus on earth was God reaching down to man and as we have come through the Sermon on the Mount Jesus has been using His Words to help people to see their spiritual helplessness. He has brought them to the cross roads in Matthew 7:13-14. He then warned them about false prophets/teachers in Matthew 7:15-20.

Now as we come to Matthew 7:21-27 we step into a section where we shall see another warning. Let us read the verses but as we do let us not forget that the first word in Matthew 7:15 must be kept with these verses also. These verses are part of the warning also.

Notice Matthew 7:21 -27

There is so much to be considered and to be studied within these verses so we shall take our time and look closely at what our Lord has said here.

"Deceived"

I have entitled this section "**Deceived**" because when we get into these verses we shall see that is exactly what has happened to the people Jesus refers to in these verses. We will see that these people believe with all of their hearts they are on the path to eternal life.

1. The deception.

Notice Matthew 7:21 -23

Verse 21 has a Truth within it that desperately needs to be proclaimed within the religious circles today.

Wednesday January 29, 2014

Jesus tells us here that salvation is not just calling Him Lord. But it is **DOING** the will of the Father. In other words He is telling His listeners that just because someone knows the language of a believer does not make them saved. True evidence of salvation is **DOING** the will of God.

Therefore we must ask the question, "What is the will of God that Jesus is speaking of here?" It is obedience to the Word of God. It is a changed life that Jesus is talking about here. But it is not a changed life just in the sense that a person refers to Jesus as Lord and attends church on a regular basis. It is a changed life through the power of the Spirit of God. There is a deep down desire to live for God because you have come to realize that He gave His life for you. It is a constant longing to live to please God. It is not perfection in our lifestyle but it is a deep brokenness when we do sin and fall short of God's perfect will. It is that narrow path which Jesus spoke of which we enter when we come through the strait gate.

Matthew 7:14

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18a

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

¹⁸ And all things are of God,

Let me show you what this Christian life looks like in action.

a. The change.

Wednesday January 29, 2014

Luke 19:2-9

² And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

³ And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

⁴ And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

⁶ And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

⁷ And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

⁸ And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

⁹ And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house

Zacchaeus was a man who was controlled by his riches and his love of money. He was a publican which meant he worked for the Romans as a tax collector. The publicans were known for their dishonesty in the way they over charged the people when they collected taxes. They would then keep the extra tax money for themselves. But when Zacchaeus met Jesus and he was saved there was a remarkable change which came to his life. He vowed to give one half of his goods to the poor and he vowed to restore whatever he had over charged to any many fourfold. That is what it looks like when salvation is real. Zacchaeus now had a

Wednesday January 29, 2014

desire to live to please God. He now desired to do the will of God and he was determined to do it no matter the cost.

Let show you another example of a changed life.

Acts 9:1-6

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

⁵ And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Saul/Paul was a man whom we would have considered a terrorist. He hunted down believers and dragged them from their homes and many were put to death. He hated followers of Jesus Christ. But after his conversion on the Damascus Road there was a major change in his life. Here is one verse that gives to us a glimpse of the beginning of the change.

Acts 9:20

Wednesday January 29, 2014

²⁰ And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Now with change in a person's life there is another aspect and that is sorrow over sin.

b. The brokenness.

Now when we come to Jesus and we are saved we do not stop sinning. We still have the sin nature within us and we still fail in our everyday lives. But when the TRUE believer fall into sin there will be brokenness over that sin and this can be seen in the lives of believers within the Bible.

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

⁷⁰ But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

⁷³ And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

⁷⁴ Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

Wednesday January 29, 2014

⁷⁵ *And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.*

Peter was broken over his sin and he was consumed with godly sorrow. Now there is a difference between godly sorrow and the sorrow of the world.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

⁸ *For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.*

⁹ *Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.*

¹⁰ *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

Here in these verses we can see the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. Godly sorrow leads to repentance or in other words the believer sees the sin which has come into their life and is broken over the sin BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE SIN GRIEVES THEIR LORD.

Worldly sorrow is not the same. Worldly sorrow comes when a person is caught in something which shames them or they do something which makes them look foolish or it costs them something. Worldly sorrow can produce repentance but it is not a repentance which comes because God has been offended. It is a repentance that comes because they simply wish they had not done whatever it was that they did. This sorrow Paul tells us worketh death because it is not a sorrow which causes people to turn to God for forgiveness. This is seen in Judas after he had betrayed the Lord.

Wednesday January 29, 2014

Matthew 27:1-5

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

² And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Conclusion:

Let us get back to the thought. When a person is truly saved there will be a desire to live the will of God. There will be a desire to walk in obedience and when we allow sin in our lives there will be brokenness. There will be a sorrow which will eventually produce repentance.

Notice Matthew 7:21-23

I want you to notice very closely that the "many" which Jesus speaks of here are able to live lives of iniquity and it does not bother them. The reason is because they are not saved. They are religious to the point of serving but they are not saved. A true believer will not be able to live in sin without a conviction and brokenness.

Let us give heed to what Paul said in his second letter to the Corinthians.

Wednesday January 29, 2014

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?