

Above & Beyond

Review

- Jesus is in rabbi mode
 - The mission of a rabbi was to become a living example of what it means to apply God's Word to one's life.
 - The task of the disciple was to become as much like the Rabbi as possible.
 - He has called some core disciples and has been showing them, and is now teaching them.
- Review beatitudes
 - Isn't so much telling them what to aspire to as He is what they already are.
 - You already are the salt (wisdom)... You already are the light... Let your light so shine... Culture had told these kinds of people that they weren't and couldn't be.
 - We should aspire to be dependent on the Lord and a demonstration of His character.
- Review Jesus' view on the Law and Prophets, and of teachers. Rabbi's and disciples do and teach. He's saying, "I didn't come to be like this."
- Then come this verse that connects the people, the letter, and the Spirit of the word.

5:20

- righteousness - Is Jesus preaching a works-based gospel? Not at all.
 - Positional and practical righteousness. Like salvation, past present and future.
 - We have God's righteousness in Jesus. He works righteousness through us. Apart from Jesus, used maxi pads. Man's best efforts are that.
 - Jesus is going to connect what He just said about some teachers, the Pharisees are teachers and how they live it, with what people have been taught.
 - What have they been taught? The letter of the law and not the Spirit.
- But before we do that, discuss the point Jesus is making up front.
 - They loved God, they loved the Scriptures, so far as they were able, but they had limited vision in terms of application.
 - Love for God is not demonstrated by not being bad, but by going above and beyond, by being completely given over to Jesus.
 - Pharisees had minimum application. All action, no heart or spirit. Minimum marriage?
 - We want to give as little as possible and get as much as possible. This is not love.
 - Jesus isn't going to raise the bar so that it's harder. He's going to show them that it isn't about a bar. Imagine a high jumper who says he loves the sport, that could clear the minimum to make districts and then didn't care about going higher.
 - What is it about? Love. Jason Gray song. Do you have that?
- Are you a believer because you have had a head encounter or a heart encounter with Jesus? Must have a heart encounter. Otherwise we are just a club.
- God's power is in his love. God is love. 1 John 4:7-11
 - Like petroleum. Jet fuel, diesel, unleaded, etc. all from one thing.
 - Pentecost, every healing, every filling, expression of God's power is an expression of His love.

- For God so loved that he gave. The greatest of these is love. The fruit of the Spirit is love.
- Agape is a love that is completely given over. It goes above and beyond. Like Jesus on the cross, it should be that which drives and empowers us.
- It is this kind of power, the love, with which we need to be continually filled and by which we need to live. It is the love of God and for God active in our lives.
- Jesus point again: Love for God is not demonstrated by not being bad, but by going above and beyond, by being completely given over to to Him.

5:21-32 Relationships

- 5:21-26 Anger. God's heart is reconciliation. Jesus.
- 5:27-30 Lust. God's heart is purity. Jesus.
- 5:31-32 Selfishness. God's heart is commitment. Jesus.

5:33-48 Reputation

- 5:33-37 Promises. God's heart is integrity. Jesus.
- 5:38-42 Grudges. God's heart is grace. Jesus.
- 5:43-48 Favoritism. God's heart is perfection/completeness. Jesus.

Do you see it?

- Love for God is not demonstrated by not being bad, but by going above and beyond, by being completely given over to to Him.
- Agape is a love that is completely given over. It goes above and beyond. Like Jesus on the cross, it should be that which drives and enables us.
- Are you a believer because you have had a head encounter or a heart encounter with Jesus? Back to 1 John 4 for Gospel.