

Tonight, we continue working through the Sermon on the Mount... the most important sermon ever spoken... These are words **coming from the mouth of Jesus!** I can't think of anyone more important to listen to... not even the president... nobody! ha... What Jesus has to say is a big deal...
 Last week we saw Jesus go off with his disciples and is now sitting on the side of a mountain speaking to them...
 Last week he talked about how they were to have certain Christ-like attitudes in the *Beatitudes* and how they were to be *salt and light!*
 Tonight, Jesus fleshes out what it looks like to actually be salt and light...
 What I want us to see tonight is that God looks at our hearts... and we need Jesus to have good hearts...

THE POINT – JESUS TRANSFORMS OUR HEARTS AND LIVES... READ: MATTHEW 5:17-20

1. JESUS DID WHAT NO ONE COULD... (17-20)

The passage begins in a really weird way... but it really sets up the entire sermon for us...

Jesus begins (17)

What is he saying...? In the OT God placed a call on **ALL PEOPLE** to be... perfect... righteous... doing no wrong... **The problem** is, we do wrong which makes us on bad terms with God... So... we needed something... someone... to help us...

That someone is Jesus... he came to do what we couldn't...

I didn't come to completely do away with the OT... instead... he came to do what nobody else could do... **KEEP IT!**

Remember the point of the Law... all the rules, commands that no one could do... what was the point???

Three reasons – Prove God's holiness... to show us how his world works best... to prove our unholiness...

The Law wasn't for God... it was for us! The Law was to show us the standard of God... (**PERFECTION**)

It shows us that we couldn't do it...

Have you ever told someone – oh I can do that, and they're like okay... try... only to prove that you couldn't...? That's us! Oh, I cannot murder someone... I can love God with all my heart... easy! Nah.

Jesus says – You can't do it... but I can...!

But that's not it... (19)

To not keep the commands is one thing... but then to encourage people to break them... both end with judgment...

There's another option... **to do them and teach them** (help others to do them)

This is a great thing, and **you will be called great in the kingdom of heaven...**

So, what exactly does that mean? To not do what God commands leads to judgement... to follow him with all you are and even help others to do it... there is nothing greater!

So... Do you make it easy for people to not follow God around you?

Do you help others follow Jesus or do you hinder their walk?

(20) Jesus is saying there is a problem between what we do and where our heart is... the problem with the Pharisees is that they just looked good... Jesus is saying there is more...

The point of these verses... Jesus accomplished what we couldn't...

2. GOD CARES ABOUT OUR HEARTS... (21-48)

The second thing we want to notice tonight covers the entire passage... even though Jesus doesn't come right out and say it... **It's that God cares about our hearts...**

More than anything, actions or words... **God judges the condition of our heart...**

Why? Because we can say things that we don't mean... we can do things with a bad heart...

That is really the point of this section in the Sermon on the Mount... to say... you thought you were pleasing God just going through the motions... Jesus is like nope... it's about the heart...

This has never changed... it was the same in the OT...

Sometimes we think that God only cared about what we actually did in the OT... no way... he cared about our hearts then and does now!

Think about the Pharisees for a second... listen to what Jesus said about them... **Matthew 23:25-28 -**

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

You see God cares about our hearts... our hearts are the true us... not the show we put on for others... where is your heart? ***Are you just saying you're following Jesus but you just aren't there... do you feel like you're faking it... do you feel like you are failing... be real with yourself...?***

A challenge – be real with someone else tonight... tell them this... God already knows where your heart is...

3. OUR LIVES PROVE OUR HEARTS... (21-48)

So... Jesus cares about our hearts... we get that... but we also have to say Jesus cares about what we **DO**...

He does this by bringing up what they already know from the OT and saying... look *you have heard it said like this... But I say to you...* some of these are even 10 Commandments!

Meaning... you thought it was just about your life... but it's actually about your heart!

To help us in this, he gives us some handles to hold on to... what it look like to live lives like Jesus!

So, what does this look like? ***(We're gonna work through these quick... because they are practical!!!)***

(21-26) Do not be angry... but forgive instead...

You may be telling someone you love them but inside you know you hate them... or who is the person you need to forgive?

(27-30) Do not lust... but kill sin...

You may not be doing sexual things with someone, but you are look at things or thinking things you shouldn't...

(31-32) Do not divorce... (what's that gotta do with me...) but be faithful...

Marriage wise... You are to still be faithful to your future spouse even now!

If lusting = adultery... you are able to commit it married or unmarried! We are to be pure and faithful!

(33-37) Do not make promises that aren't yours to make – but be simple, honest and keep your word...

You may not be "swearing to the God" but are you making promises you can't keep...?

(38-42) Do not retaliate or fight back... but love and serve above and beyond...

You may not punch someone in the face when you want to... but are you taking it even a step further and serving them... woah?

(43-48) Do not hate... but love and even pray for your enemies...

You may not think you are hating people... but are you loving them... better yet... are you praying for the people who bully you... are mean to you... seem like they hate you...?

Each of these are **heart things**... it goes from just outside stuff to inside stuff... heart things...

You may be "doing" the right things... but the question is – **where is your heart?**

God's expectations of us are high... **(48) God expects us to be perfect just like him...**

You and I know the problem with that... *we aren't perfect!*

But this is the exact reason why Jesus has come.... ***He has done what we couldn't and now he helps us do them!***

TAKEAWAYS

• **Trust in Jesus' work, not your own...**

Look... God knows you are not perfect... that doesn't take away the call to be... BUT... God is graceful to us when we fail... which we will do daily... so the first thing we have to do is to trust in Jesus...

What this passage proves to us is that we fail... so tonight a prayer for everyone, Christian or not, should be to ask God for forgiveness in our failing... Maybe you need to ask God to forgive you for the first time for your mistakes, your sin... do that tonight and then trust in who Jesus is... the righteous he gives to you! That he has done what you couldn't... **THAT IS HOW WE ARE SAVED...**

• **Check your heart...** there are only two that truly know your heart... you and God... no one else can see it...

So, tonight... examine your own heart... what do you do and why do you do it? Remember the challenge... talk with someone!

• **Live like Christ...** this is totally part of the night... practically Jesus is telling us how to live as followers of Jesus... we need to do this... *be forgiving... pursue purity... be faithful... be honest and keep your word... serve others... love well...* all of this stuff is super weird at your school... in your homes... but this is who God makes us!

Questions:

What stood out from tonight?

Read back through 21-48... which is the hardest to do?

Pray together asking God to work in your hearts and through you're lives....