

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:17-48: How to NOT ACT like a Hypocrite

May 12, 2019

1. Jesus was against Pharisaical hypocrisy and legalism.
2. The gospel is 30 words: "Jesus is God with us, come to show us God's love, save us from our sin, set up God's kingdom, and shut down religion, so we can share in God's life!" (*The Meeting House, Oakville*)
3. Jesus calls us to -depend on God and HIS work in us – not what we can do by ourselves, to satisfy ourselves in HIS approval NOT the approval of men and women, and to go beyond keeping the law to living by the principles behind the law.
4. Do you keep any of God's rules without really knowing the heart behind them? Is that sustainable? Doesn't that just lead to legalism if it isn't already a form of it? May I suggest that you get underneath the *rule* to the *reason* behind it – and let your heart align with that! That, I suspect, will have staying power AND it will help us be less hypocritical.
5. What is there in your life – right now - that causes you to sin? What would it take for you to remove it?
6. What are you doing to keep yourself sexually pure for marriage or within marriage? How are you helping your marriage to grow stronger? What are some things you might be doing that could tear it apart?
7. Are you known as a person of your word? Are we known as a community that speaks the truth?
8. How do you depend on God for this supernatural work in you? What will you tell yourself when others tell you to demand your rights? How will you keep yourself from the escalation of retaliation?
9. Is there someone in your life who – when you think of them – treats you like an enemy? Could you name that person? And, could you pray for them right now? Could you think of a creative way to show them love?
10. Be perfect!
 - a. Aim for perfection.
 - b. Be merciful.
11. Are you maturing spiritually? Compared to last year at this time – or using some other measure... Are you less angry? Do you pursue righteousness? Do you protect

your heart from lust? Do you live out your marriage commitments? Do you just keep your word? Do you show love and mercy to others?