Audience of One

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 10, 2016 • Elder Scott Slade

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
-Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

- 1) How do we cultivate a desire for heavenly rewards more than worldly rewards?
 - a. Am I Wimpy? "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today."
- i. If your thoughts are not on eternity, **you cannot help** but seek the pleasures of this world.

Matthew 6:21, 33

- ii. Did you notice? Charitable deeds are assumed ("when" not "if").
- b. What will rewards in heaven be like compared to rewards here?
 - i. Consider the Giver. Matthew 7:11
 - ii. Where are all of your little league trophies now? Matthew 6:19-21
- c. Remember, where does REAL significance come from?
 - i. Seriously, what's better than this? John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - ii. Why do we crave praise from man so much anyway? "I want to BE somebody!"
- -Naven Johnson
 - iii. You too can have a hospital named after you...IF the price is right.
- 2) But why does it even matter? Can't I have my cake and eat it too?
 - a. God is ALWAYS concerned about His glory
 - b. Only God deserves worship (even though we like it too)
 - c. Who is the real Author and Provider of our good deeds? Ephesians 2:10
- 3) Our audience of One
 - a. To do Matthew 6:1-4, I must really believe God _____ and ____
 - i. Don't worry, He doesn't miss a thing. 1 Timonty 5:25
 - ii. There IS a payoff (don't act like you don't need one) Matthew 6:4
 - b. Doing in secret glorifies God (proclaims He is real in your heart) Hebrews 11:6
 - i. If you did not have faith, there would be no reason to do it
 - ii. Is this faith the reason God rewards us at all?
 - Why else would public deeds have no merit?
 - Of what value would our good deeds be to God otherwise?

GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK I: MATTHEW 6:1-4

SERMON REFLECTION

What were your thoughts on Sunday's message? Discuss with your group questions you had, things that stood out to you, and impressions you had.

Living like Jesus takes community! Obedience to Christ requires that we do it in the context of relationships.

Because of that, we are going to look at various elements of INTENTIONAL GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS.

TRUST

INTENTIONAL GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS require TRUST. We are going to spend some time thinking about trusting each other and God, and why it can be more difficult for some people than others. Trust is "the ability to act with incomplete knowledge" or "security, attachment, dependence, reliance, feeling known, cared for, accepted; knowing you have access and priority to someone."

-Gottman & Siegel

DISCUSSION

Jesus gave the Beatitudes as the framework from which all of the Sermon on the Mount can be understood. While most of the Sermon on the Mount deals with disobedience and hypocrisy, the Beatitudes show what obedience and integrity look like. The rest of the Sermon exposes the sin in our heats; the Beatitudes reveal the character of Jesus.

Go through the Beatitudes again; how does the passage from this week relate to these statements?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

DISCUSSION

I. Who do you trust? Describe the trust that you have in that person.

2. What are the relational components to your trust in them?

3. What benefits come from trusting someone?

INSECURITY

4. How long does it take you to develop trust with someone?

MAKING ROOM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Being a person who has placed trust in Christ and has experienced trusting relationships, can you think of anybody who doesn't have that but needs it?

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