
❖SERMON NOTES❖

Sunday, October 14, 2012

“MUCH MORE THAN A RELIGION”

(Matthew 5:7-12)

The first four Beatitudes focused largely on inward qualities of right relationship to God. The last four focus more on social qualities of living out relationship to God in ways that are so counter-cultural as to be beacons of light in a dark, lost world. It's more than just religion.

1. _____ **in Spirit** – **“the merciful”** (v. 7).

2. _____ **in heart** – **“they will see God”** (v. 8).

3. _____ **peace** – **“blessed are the peacemakers”** (v. 9).

4. _____ **in commitment** – **“persecuted for the sake of righteousness”** (v. 10-11).

“Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV).

❖SERMON NOTES❖

Sunday, October 14, 2012

“MUCH MORE THAN A RELIGION”

(Matthew 5:7-12)

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity” (Matthew 23:27, NLT).

1. Compassionate in Spirit – “the merciful” (v. 7).

2. Pure in heart – “they will see God” (v. 8).

“For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you” (Mark 7:21-23, NLT).

3. Waging peace – “blessed are the peacemakers” (v. 9).

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed says the Lord, who has compassion on you” (Isaiah 54:10, NIV).

“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, (between Jews and Gentiles) by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father” (Ephesians 2:14-18, NASB).

And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God” (Colossians 1:20, CEV).

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NIV).

“Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace” (Ephesians 4:3, NLT).

4. Unwavering in commitment – “persecuted for the sake of righteousness” (v. 10-11).

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you” (John 15:18-20 NIV).

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12 NIV).

“Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV).