

Walking Through the Mount - 9

Jesus and Humility – Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction: This is a shift from Jesus' rebuke of what the Pharisees' taught to what the Pharisees' practiced.

1. Humility is in Short and ever Dwindling Supply:
 - a. The average millennial will take 25,000 selfies in their lifetime. Perhaps the most narcissistic generation in American history.
 - b. The guys whose story is always a little better than yours/other's.
 - c. Always having to have one's way or one's say.
 - d. Refuses to accept correction or makes excuse when corrected.
 - e. Jealousy or envy at the success of others.
 - f. Always have great ideas... for someone else to carry out.
 2. Humility must always be guarded and maintained – David
 - a. Who am I that I should be called the king's son in law?
 - b. I will not lift up my hand against the Lord's anointed.
 - c. I have sinned.
 - d. I will not offer to the Lord that which cost me nothing.
 1. In Matters of Charity – Matthew 6:1-4
 - a. Note what the text does NOT say:
 - i. 'Take heed that no one sees or knows about your charity.'
 - ii. 'If anyone knows about your charity you are a braggart.'
 - iii. 'If anyone knows of your charity, God will not reward you.'
 - b. The verse deals with the intent of charity...
 - i. "to be seen by men" = "have glory from men"
 - ii. "Don't sound a trumpet... that you may have glory from men"
 - c. We do not give to gain authority or curry favor.
 - d. This verse must be understood in harmony with Matthew 5:14-16.
 - e. This is not a WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION verse!
 - i. It is not wrong for others to know what you give, especially the elders (cf Acts 4:33-37, 5:1-11)
 - ii. The church is commanded to withdraw from covetous brethren (1 Cor 5:11-13, Col 3:5).
 2. In Matters of Prayer – Matthew 6:5-13
 - a. Don't be like the hypocrites:
 - i. They love to stand and be seen praying - Luke 18:9-12
 - ii. They want to be seen by men for their piety.
 - b. Don't be like the heathen! They use vain repetitions, believing there is efficacy in the volume of their words (think the Catholic rosary and "Hail Marys").
 - c. Don't work to draw attention to yourself for the glory of men.
 3. In the Matter of Fasting– Matthew 6:16-18
 - a. The first two issues made it easy to draw attention to oneself, but this one required a special and unrelenting effort.
 - b. One must be ever mindful of others present and respond accordingly to incite attention to one's piety.
 4. In Matters of Forgiveness – Matthew 6:14-15
 - a. Unforgiveness is a symptom of pride or self exaltation.
 - b. Unforgiveness puts us in the place of God.
 - c. Unforgiveness is self-retaliatory, it returns unforgiveness.
 - d. Forsaking the Assembly is a sign of a lack of humility and violates every "let us" passage in the context.
 - e. Continuing in Sin - 1 John 5:16 (cf Is 59:1-2)
- Conclusion: Jesus wants His people to do good, to pray, and to practice self discipline. But these things must have proper purpose and intent. Anything else, while gaining us the shallow and temporary accolades of men, robs us of the reward of God.