



Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
August 24 & 25, 2019

Valley Church
Week 25 – The Sermonator

Introduction:

The Gospel is as much for believers as those who are yet to believe! May His amazing grace never be reduced to the “Muzak” of our lives.

Colossians 1:6

The Harsh Words of Jesus...What are the Options?

1. The _____ Approach
2. The _____ Approach

Jesus' Mission Statement:

Luke 4:18-19

The Two Ministries of Jesus...

1. An elevation of the _____
...followed by...
2. A proclamation of _____

Galatians 4:4-5
John 1:11-12
Matthew 5:17-18
Matthew 5:19-20

Christianity:

Not about merely a _____ life, but an _____ life!

Matthew 7:22-23
2 Corinthians 3:5-6

The Big Idea:

Our privilege is to walk under the second ministry of Christ – His proclamation of liberty – and not under His elevation of the Law. The Law is not dead, but we are dead to the Law (Romans 7:1-7), and now we walk by the life of the Spirit!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Thinking back to what was discussed in the weekend message about the Two Ministries of Jesus (Elevating Law followed and Proclaiming Liberty from it), how does this help to clarify some of the difficult teachings of Jesus that may have stumped you in the past? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Why is it so important to pay careful attention to the historical setting and original audience Jesus is addressing before attempting to apply His precious words to various situations today?
3. Read **Matthew 5:13-20** as a group and discuss the following...
 - Keeping in mind that Jesus is addressing the Jews (specifically their elitist, Pharisaical mind-set), what is the essence of His rebuke in verse 13? Having failed to BE the “salt of the earth” – in what sense have Jesus words about being “trampled by men” been true of Israel?
 - In verses 14-16, Jesus reminds the Jews that God's desire is for them to be the “light of the world.” In what sense had Israel instead chosen to hide that light under a bowl?
 - In verse 16, Jesus is giving them yet another chance to change their perspective (to repent) and fulfill their potential to “shine before men.” Yet later in Matthew 12, the national leaders commit the “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” in total rejection of Him as their Messiah. Why do you think their hearts were so hard toward Him? Think deeply about this...
 - Jesus said “unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees... you will certain not enter the kingdom...” (vs. 20). Why is this the key operative phrase in understanding the impossible demands of the Sermon on the Mount? What is Jesus over-arching point?
4. Following the Sermon on the Mount (elevating the demands of the Law) Matthew records several stories of people coming to Jesus by faith for physical healing, spiritual deliverance, raising a dead girl to life, calming a storm, etc. Why do you think Matthew juxtaposes the stringent demands of the Law with stories of relating to Jesus by faith? What can we learn from this? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. If you are not currently reading through the entire Bible, read through the Book of Matthew over the next week. Look closely for signs of the two ministries of Jesus – elevation of the law followed by proclamation of liberty (grace). Ask Him to speak to you powerfully as He reveals more clearly this “bridge” between Old & New! You can read through the book in just four chapters per day...