

Beyond Belief Session 3C: Apprentices of Jesus

Who Is A Truly Good Person?

© Dallas Willard Ministries

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matt 5:17 ~ *"I have not come to abolish the law..."* Why did he say that?

- That's what they were thinking! He'd just upset their applecart about who is and isn't blessed.
- The law and prophets as they'd been taught said the poor are cursed; the rich are blessed.
- It sounded to them like he were abolishing the order of life that they knew.

The law is a *good* thing...

- The Ten Commandments are God's _____ advice on how to lead a basically _____.
- Redemption has to be supplied because people cannot and do not live in them but that doesn't withdraw the fact that they're good.
- Jesus is saying the law is not to be destroyed, it's good, it's to be fulfilled.

How do you do it? How do you get to be the kind of person that the law is, as the prophet says, written on your heart? The kind of person who *naturally* does the deeds of the law?

Jesus' response is contained in Matthew 5:20...

WHO IS THE TRULY GOOD PERSON?

Matthew 5:20 ~ What is the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees?

- To go beyond the goodness of the scribes and Pharisees means to go beyond the realm of _____, external or internal.
- Pharisees assumed that the task is to get control of _____.
- Their vision of righteousness is don't do anything wrong! Control your actions!

Matthew 5:21-26 ~

- Jesus starts by addressing murder...if they haven't killed anyone they're a good person?
- Anger...Terms of contempt....
- Jesus is getting at attitudes!
- "Fool" is a very strong term biblically. It's a combination of anger and _____.

Matthew 5:23-24 ~ AT THE ALTAR

- The rule was you never interrupt an offering unless there was a ceremonial point that was overriding what you're doing so that the offering would work right.
- Jesus' is saying...*You never allow ritualistic matters to interfere with _____ matters.*
- The moral matter here is a rift between you and your brother. And that's so important that you immediately walk off to take care of it.
- He's talking about a *tenderness of heart*....



DALLAS WILLARD
MINISTRIES
Living in the kingdom now

Beyond Belief Session 3C: Apprentices of Jesus

Who Is A Truly Good Person?

© Dallas Willard Ministries

Note the progression from not killing to *tenderness of heart* that characterizes the "righteousness beyond the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees"...

...which can only exist *because we are living in _____ with the Kingdom of God*. This is Jesus' deepest teaching on morality!

Matthew 5:25-26 ~ GOING TO COURT

- While you're on your way to court...work it out!
- "If you don't, the judge may..."
 - That's the kingdom of man! And you step into that kingdom and you go through the mills and you do all the grinding that all of us are familiar with in legal proceedings.
- In the other way you're walking in the Kingdom with all sorts of possibilities of _____.
- It doesn't say you shouldn't go to court! It tells you _____ to go to court!

Can you see how it would be important to be a disciple of Jesus to learn how to do this?

Imagine what it would be like to live a life free of _____ and _____!

Jesus invites us to come into the Kingdom of God and live there with him.

1 Corinthians 6:7 ~ Paul asks, "Why don't you let yourself be defrauded?"

- Someone not living in the Kingdom says "how can I let myself be defrauded?! I'm running my life! I have to master the situation!"
- That's the attitude of the person living outside of the Kingdom of God – they are in charge of their life. They have defined and are in charge of blessedness. They have to make it work.

The person who lives in the Kingdom of God simply _____ _____ _____.

- If they have to stand for what's right they do so, but never in hostility and anger.
- They never do so wishing to see harm done to people.
- They do so in the spirit of giving because they know *they stand in the hand of God*.
- That's what this teaching is about! *It's about having a certain kind of _____*. Being a certain kind of person.

Matthew 16:6 ~ The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees always fails because *it remains at the level of human control*.

- If you remain at the level of actions you're trying to control, you'll always fail.
- And when you fail, since you defined righteousness at that level, you'll try to hide it.
- That's _____.

Step into a relationship with Jesus that allows you to count on Him to be your blessedness, your guide and your strengthener, and to accomplish what must be done for God's glory in your life.



Beyond Belief Session 3C: Apprentices of Jesus

Who Is A Truly Good Person?

© Dallas Willard Ministries

We accept the fact that we are sinners, that our sins are paid for, and we step off the legalistic basis. *That* is stepping beyond the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

THE ORDERLINESS OF JESUS' TEACHINGS

Jesus' teachings are normally misunderstood because we don't think of them as _____. We think of them as a list that somebody threw together.

- Suppose anger and contempt were withdrawn from human life. How much evil would be left?
- 25,000 people murdered every year in US -how many would be murdered without anger and contempt? Not many.

MATTHEW 5:27-28 ~ LUST and OBSESSIVE DESIRE

Remember, we've already dealt with anger and contempt! If anger and contempt were withdrawn from sexuality how much difficulty would remain in this area? Still some, but a lot less.

- Also has to do with _____ desire. Desire that is cultivated.
- 'Looking TO lust'...*not* 'who looks AND lust'...the grammar is clear. It is looking *for the purpose* of lusting.
- The inner condition of the heart is what matters here too.
- The idea that 'we're not to do anything wrong in this area' is a failing strategy just like everywhere.

Jesus starts with the level of the heart where evil can be _____ and he takes care of that. The object is not to avoid sinning! It goes much deeper.

Back up and learn how to change the inside so that you are not the kind of person who would use another person to excite lust. Or who would use another person as the object of contempt and anger.

Matthew 5:29-30 ~ CUTTING OFF YOUR MEMBERS

- He's talking to people who believe that sin is in their _____.
- He's not recommending this!

Is Jesus teaching that? NO! He's teaching just the opposite!

- If your eye makes you stumble, his assumption is that your eye doesn't do it. _____ *do it*.
- Even if your body is ready to move on its own *the* _____ is still responsible.
- Just because you don't do anything wrong because you cut off your members doesn't do anything about your _____.

Jesus is **the most brilliant man** who ever lived on earth. And he's teaching in the best way possible.



DALLAS WILLARD
MINISTRIES
Living in the kingdom now

Beyond Belief Session 3C: Apprentices of Jesus

Who Is A Truly Good Person?

© Dallas Willard Ministries

Matthew 5:31-32 ~ DIVORCE

Suppose we got rid of anger, contempt, cultivated lusting....what's going to happen to divorce? Jesus never said that divorce was never permissible. But he never thought it was a good thing.

- He recognized that sometimes divorce was better than the alternatives.
- He also recognized that – especially in the context he's addressing here – when a man divorces a woman, he _____ her life. She then only has three alternatives...

Matthew 5:33-37 SWEARING

- It's not cussing, cursing or even filthy language.
- It's using song and dance language to get people to do what you want - verbal _____.

Let your yes be yes and no be no. *Let it stand.* Give it over to God and let him have His way.

Matthew 5:38-42 GO ANOTHER MILE

This is usually read as impossible legalisms. But we've already dealt with who is well off, who's blessed, with anger and contempt, cultivated lusting and all the sickness that comes out of that, unhappiness between mates, verbal manipulation.... You get down here and you're already a different person!

You'll be able to deal with whatever comes, do whatever is right in reference to these things...You can remain vulnerable when you've been taken advantage of.

- That doesn't mean you don't know what's happened and that you can't base your future action on the basis of your knowledge of what's happened.
- But it does mean that You will not try to become invulnerable.
- You will not isolate yourself. Why? You're living in the Kingdom of God.

Going an extra mile...this is an expression of the _____ of _____ that live in the Kingdom of God.

In summary and review...

- ✓ We're invited by Jesus to _____ in the Kingdom of God.
- ✓ In order to do that we have to share His vision of who is well off and who is a good person.

We can come to the genuineness of "*Blessed are the _____ for theirs is the Kingdom of God.*" And in that vision move on to a transformed heart that is able to love.

You meet the Kingdom of God at the level of the heart and there you are supplied the wisdom, joy, and strength that enables you to actually do the kinds of things that Jesus is talking about...joyously and with gratitude to God.