

Gleanings from the Gospels

Title – Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Prayer

Purpose/Review

We are continuing in our series... Gleanings from the Gospels

With the intent to take our biblical knowledge and put it into real life actions

Last week we took an in-depth look at curbing our tongue

What we say really does matter to God

Matthew 12

36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Every careless word...

When we come to stand before the Lord... He will know all that we have ever said

So with that understanding we choose to change...

Maybe we had a habit of speaking too soon with listening...
We put a bridle on our tongue

Maybe we had a habit of using coarse or foul language...
We make that bridle a bit tighter

Maybe we speak insults against a person...
We pull the bridle tighter still

With the help of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us...

We have had success in censoring our words

Our thought process has become our own personal platform like YouTube...

With a built-in algorithm to ban certain words

We have cleaned up our vocabulary...

We listen to others before speaking far more than we ever have...

No longer do we speak insults against others... and instead remain silent

But is that enough...

Or does God want us to go deeper still...?

NOTE-

There is a saying.... actions speak louder than words... which generally means

That what people do is more significant and revealing than what they say

Often highlighting the gap between promises and reality

SERMON TITLE – Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Reading

Matthew 7

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name...

...and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Doctrinal

If we are not careful, we may make this verse saying something that it does not...

At first reading it would appear that doing the will of the Father will get us into heaven...

Or... what we do... our works... will get us into heaven...

This interpretation would go against what the bible teaches us elsewhere...

Ephesians 2

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God

If it appears to be a contradiction of what is taught elsewhere in the bible...

Then what is Jesus saying...?

SIDE NOTE-

There are no contradiction in the bible

TUESDAY NIGHT's discussion...

Listen again to our reading...

Matthew 7

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Before we break this verse down to discover its meaning...

Let us once again follow good bible study discipline and read our verse in context...

NOTE-

If we step back and take that 15,000-foot view

We see that our reading is found towards the end of the Sermon on the Mount

Or as it is sometimes referred to as Moses 2.0

God used Moses to bring us His Law... The Ten Commandments

The law was given as the template for which we are to live by... and yet we know

That keeping the Ten Commandments is impossible for us to do...

NOTE-

When we read the Sermon on the Mount

We find that Jesus came to take the Ten Commandments higher still

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 5:21- 22**Matthew 5**

21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 5:27-28**Matthew 5**

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5

48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

In that Sermon, the Lord clarified and even elevated the standard of the Law. It was hard to keep before, but Jesus made it absolutely impossible. The Pharisees and others tried to make the Law doable. Jesus clarified that it demanded perfection at the level of your thoughts, words, and deeds... **Shawn Lazar**

So with this in mind... let us unpack our lesson

Application

Our first bullet point...

Gleanings from Matthew

1) Not everyone

Not everyone... will enter heaven

This is one of the first themes mentioned in the bible...

There will always be two types of people...

NOTE-

There we two sons of Adam and Eve... Able and Cain

And later after Cain killed his brother we are introduced to Seth

We read about the genealogy of Cain... who followed the world

And the genealogy of Seth... who called upon the name of the Lord

NOTE-

Jesus reminds us of these two types of people
Those who follow the world and those who call upon Jesus

Yet as He does... He throws a curve at us

Matthew 7

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven

Jesus is merely repeating the warning from Isaiah...

A warning that the Pharisees should have known well...

Isaiah 29

13 The Lord says: These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

When Jesus reminds them of this warning... Listen to their response...

Matthew 7

22 Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?

What do we observe in their response...?

They don't appeal to their faith, but to their works... That is crucial to see.

Our works do not save us... they simply can't save us

Did they keep the Father's will....

Not completely... No one does... No one can...

James 2

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

What is God's will...

It is revealed by every command of Scripture

TRUTH-

God does not grade your obedience to the Law on a curve.
There are only two possibilities: you either get 100% or 0%.

These people may have performed miracles, but they surely sinned in other areas

And if we break the Law at only one point, we were guilty of breaking it all

Romans 3

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

This explains why Jesus responded the way He did...

Matthew 7

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

NOTE-

They thought that their words and deeds

Their works... were their ticket into heaven

They were not living by the Gospel... they were living by the Law

NOTE-

The Law was given to provide a standard that we cannot keep

The Law was given to show us that we are in need of being saved

The Gospel was given to show us the One who can save us

Who is the only One who can save us.... Jesus

NOTE-

In our reading we see Jesus alluding to this truth

Although from a unique perspective

Matthew 7

23 And then I will declare to them... I never knew you...

This brings us to our second bullet point...

Gleanings from Matthew

1) Not everyone

2) Knowing Jesus

What does it mean to know Jesus...?

This group believed in Jesus... they called Him Lord

They prophesied in His Name

They cast out demons in His Name

They performed miracles in His Name

Obviously... they believed in Jesus but was that enough...?

Then how do we know Jesus...

It is Jesus desire that we come to know the only true God...

John 17

3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

And how do we get to know God...?

1 John 2

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

The Greek phrase translated as “to know him” implies an ongoing relationship
A relationship found through experience

We have come to know Him through daily communication

We come to know Jesus when we lean upon Him to guide us

We come to know Jesus when we confess our failings and receive His Grace

We have a special relationship... one that the world simply does not know...

John 17

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

NOTE-

They are no longer of this world

And because of that... set them apart

Sanctify them with the Truth of Your Word

This brings us to the third bullet point...

Gleanings from Matthew

- 1) Not everyone
- 2) Knowing Jesus
- 3) Being In Two Places at Once**

How can anyone be in two places at the same time...?

EXAMPLE-

There was a movie that came out almost 25 years ago called... A Walk to Remember
The soundtrack to this movie was done by my daughters favorite band... Switchfoot

Sometimes it seems like a Hallmark movie... yet I will still watch it at times
Two teenagers fall in love... she was a born-again believer... he was not

In the end he does become a strong born-again believer
But on the road to that conclusion there was one conversation I want to discuss

Loudon... asks Jamie if she had 3 wishes what would they be
The first to have a tattoo... because her father would not allow it
To be in two places at the same time
And to witness a miracle

Loudon presents Jamie with a temporary tattoo that she can wash off...
We find out later that Loudon becoming a Christian was the miracle
But it's the second wish that I want to explore... being in two places at the same time

On one of their dates, they are taking a ride when Loudon pulls the car over
And asks Jamie to get out of the car

He instructs Jamie on where to stand and how to stand
He then says to her... you are standing in two places at the same time
You are standing on the border between 2 states

Many of us rightly believe that one day we will be in heaven...

But what else does Jesus tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven...

Luke 17

20... The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; 21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

Do you understand what Jesus is saying...?

"In your midst" can also be translated as "within you" or "among you,"

Theologically, this suggests that the kingdom of God is a present reality

In other words... the Kingdom of God not confined to a future event

But is already active and present today through Jesus' ministry

NOTE-

The presence of the kingdom "in your midst" points to

The transformative power of Jesus' teachings

And the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers

The King of kings already rules in your heart...

Romans 14

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Paul is challenging us to recognize that we are already part of the kingdom

And if we are already partly in the kingdom... in 2 places at once

Paul challenges us to participate in the kingdom's work here and now

NOTE-

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Yes... there will be those who will not enter heaven

Let it not be you

Let us recommit our lives to Jesus

Not only as Savior... but as LORD

Let us live as if we are already in heaven

For the Kingdom is not about works...

It is about Righteousness... about Peace... and about Joy in the Holy Spirit

CLOSE