

November 30, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

December 6, 2009

a.m. *“God of Nature and God of Grace”*

Scripture: Psalm 36:5-11

p.m. *Wil Sadler – Guest Speaker*

Sermon On Mount

Don Hatch

Jesus’ teachings were designed to give the scope and applications for a spiritual life. When read the Sermon on the Mount gives enduring spiritual and moral principles. Deepening regard for such principles develops when the teachings are applied. The Iron and Silver rules (might makes right and do unto others only if they have been gracious to you) are demonstrated to be inferior by an application of the Golden rule (do unto others as you would have them do unto you). The statements of Jesus are the basis for His new dispensation (Heb 3:1-6). Each teaching was calculated to bring the spiritual life into focus. Pausing to listen to the words of Jesus will have a profound effect. In each individual there is an inner being that needs to be directed in the way of godliness. Faith is the basis for these practices. Faith comes by hearing the word of the Lord (Rom 10:16, 17). Jesus’ disciples were followers and adhered to the manifested teachings of their Lord. A disciple is not only a pupil but one who holds fast to what is being taught. They are not a forgetful hearer but a doer, not deluding themselves that they can understand and not practice (Jas 1:22, 23). Jesus addresses every need of mankind equipping them to accomplish what has been set forth to do. It is evident the Lord instructed believers and unbelievers alike.

Jesus makes prominent in autotypical and unmistakable ways that one has to have eyes that see, ears that hear and hearts that will receive (1 Cor 2:6-16). God revealed through the inspired word how freely He bestows wisdom on those who seek spiritual living. Those who apply the teachings of Jesus begin to have the mind of Christ in them (Phil 2:5). Designed into the Lord’s teachings was an awakening of the conscience to accept righteousness as an adjustment of life where habitually right is chosen over wrong. In many comparative ways Jesus demonstrated that individuals like the Pharisees had a form of self-aggrandizing that looked like righteousness but was not valuable to the saving of the soul (Matt 5:17-20). In so doing the Lord illustrates that heaven is in the balance. He gave resonant details about what God designed to be a tutor to bring all unto faith in Christ, the law (Gal 3:24). The outward keeping of the law with no inward purity is like a double-minded person (Mat 6:24, 25). A

double-minded person is unstable in all ways (Jas 1:8; 4:8). Christianity renews the seat of understanding, council, purpose, meditation and reflection in those being renewed (Rom 12:1-5). It is critical that the Lord's purposes be embraced and enforced in the lives of His disciples. Those awakened to righteousness stir up their sincere mind to remember and do the words of Jesus (2 Pet 13; 3:1-7). The primary emphasis Jesus placed upon those who heard was that the Kingdom of God was at hand. The Jews had not allowed Jehovah to be their Sovereign. They had forgotten He was the ruler of all things. Hence, Jesus besought them to look within and guide their moral reflections based upon His teachings, changing their hearts, minds and purpose of life (Mat 17:3; Lk 13:3). Jesus with succinct statements guided them that they might grow thereby unto salvation. To neglect so great a salvation first spoken by the Lord, confirmed by the Apostles and God bearing witness to their words and works by signs, wonders and manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit was tantamount to the loss of eternal life. The Sermon on the Mount gave knowledge of salvation (Lk 1:77; Eph 1:13-15). Full assurances of imminent blessings were summarized in small, but to the point statements. Jesus' teachings had pungent and diminutive statements which called for the listener to draw an immediate conclusion. "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" is an appropriate and brief statement to introduce the topic of the kingdom of heaven (Mat 4:17). Developing disciples required grounding them in the items which would be the basis for the kingdom. What the kingdom was to develop into was of incalculable importance. Belonging to the kingdom would ultimately mean everything to the soul of man. The Beatitudes fashioned in the mind a desire to know the heightened blessings which were to come of believers.

Christ was to die and be raised to the right-hand of the Father. Each part of His life was a special object lesson on the purpose of the kingdom. Establishing a kingdom among men wherein He would be King of kings and Lord of lords was to give the faithful a place of security for their souls (Rev 19:11-16). When Jesus comes again He will manifest the great significance of being a faithful servant in the kingdom. Therefore of vital importance was an understanding of the character of the King and His kingdom. Jesus made it significant to know if one was a part of the kingdom with all its privileges and rewards. The Sermon on the Mount helps one grasp the importance of devout and faithful living. By examining the teachings of Jesus the whole of Christianity begins to form in the heart and mind. When the lessons of Jesus are included and practiced in daily living there is a peculiar beauty found in being a subject of Jesus Christ. The merciful provisions of God's grace offered in salvation secure a passage from being lost to salvation. Divine charity is a constant blessing to those in the kingdom of heaven. The first principles of the oracles of God guide the wayward soul to humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God wherein He will exalt the obedient in due season. Being in the kingdom of heaven is imminently important. The Sermon on the Mount demonstrates traits Jesus expected disciples to have.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Brethren, because of you, and your dedication to God the Belt Line Road family is a preferred congregation. Good teaching, good preaching and friendliness unequalled by most congregations in the Brotherhood. We should proudly invite one & all to become a member of the Belt Line Road Family.

The Bible teaches us a lot about works! The following is involved in man's salvation: (1) God's grace-the blessing offered, (2) God's law-instructions given as to what man must do to receive the blessing, (3) man's faith-his acceptance of God's law, (4) man's obedience to God's instructions, and (5) Man's reception to God's blessing.

The Bible says we are saved by works (James 2:24), and it also says we are not saved by works (Eph. 2:8-9). Therefore, there are two different type of works described in the Bible. There are the works of merit in which one might glory or boast, works of law keeping in order to earn or merit salvation (Rom.4:4-6, 3:27, 11:6). This type or kind of work is EXCLUDED from salvation. Then there are also the works (obedience) of man that complies with the conditions of God's will (Acts 2:40, Heb. 5:8-9, Matt. 7:21, James 2:24). This type or kind of work is INCLUDED in salvation. The works which are excluded from salvation are works of merit (Eph. 2:8-9), works of human devising (Rom. 10:3). The works which are included in salvation are obedience of man (Rom. 1:5, Gal. 5:6, James 2:24, Acts 10:35). If all works related to salvation are excluded, as some teach, then faith itself would be excluded, for faith is a work which man must do (John 6:28-29). The fallacy of the religious world comes from confusing meritorious works with the works of faith. The kind of faith that avails before God has always been the live, active, working obedient faith. This is the kind of faith which saved Abraham (Rom. 4, James 2). No one has ever received any blessing which God offered until his faith lead him to obey the instructions given in God's word. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all them that OBEYS Him (Heb. 5:8-9). Only those in Christ have access to all spiritual blessings. Good teaching, good preaching and a friendly welcome should bring us all together at each appointed time.

Pray for our sick & shut-in! Have a great week serving God!

~Dean Webb

“Ye know this, my beloved brethren. But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing” (Jas 1:19-25).

PATH OF THE JUST

"Hear, my sons, the instruction of a father, And attend to know understanding: For I give you good doctrine; Forsake ye not my law. For I was a son unto my father, Tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. And he taught me, and said unto me: Let thy heart retain my words; Keep my commandments, and live; Get wisdom, get understanding; Forget not, neither decline from the words of my mouth; Forsake her not, and she will preserve thee; Love her,

and she will keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; yea, with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote thee; she will bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. She will give to thy head a chaplet of grace; A crown of beauty will she deliver to thee. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; And the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in paths of uprightness. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and if thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: Keep her; for she is thy life. Enter not into the path of the wicked, And walk not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it; Turn from it, and pass on" (Prov 4:1-16).

Every youth should make time to study the Proverbs. Within the proverbs are succinct statements which set forth a pathway of righteousness and godliness. The doctrine of God is a clear statement on how one learns and applies what has been learned to paths one takes. Jesus used this same illustration in the Sermon on the Mount saying, "Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it" (Matt 7:13, 14). The well trodden path of the wicked is likened unto a dark path where one will stumble and fall. Christians walk in light and have no fellowship with darkness (1 Jn 1:1-10). Because of this fellowship with God Christians have every good and perfect gift from above, coming down from the Father of lights (Jas 1:17,18).

All adults should review the path they are following. It is a consistent teaching in the Bible to examine the pathway one is following. Paul wrote, "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? For we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor 6:14-18). Having no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness assures Christians that they have the fruit of light, goodness, righteousness and truth (Eph 4:3-13). All things are proved and manifested in light. Christians follow the pathway of the just. God's word is a lamp unto their way.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Roberta Price, Nancy Pond

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class for **Tuesday, December 8th** will be at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex with a lesson by Letitia Beverly.

INVITATION

The congregation is invited to an Open House at the Hatch's on **Sunday, December 13th** from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

The Hawn Freeway Church of Christ is hosting an Open Forum on **Sunday, December 6, 2009** from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on "Heaven's Help for the Christian Home". More details are on bulletin board in the back foyer.

BIBLE SCHOOL

The Winter quarter will begin on **Sunday, December 6th** and **Wednesday, December 9th**. Teachers, please let Don know of any needs you may have.

FT. WORTH LECTURES

The Ft. Worth Lectures will be held on **Sunday, January 10th** through **Wednesday, January 13th, 2010** on "The Gospel Accounts". Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please make this change of address to your phone book: **Jan Smithson**; 2920 W. Shady Grove, #230; Irving, TX 75060; 972-790-2314.

WITH SYMPATHY

Melinda Tewell (Thomas Rathbun's aunt) passed away last Tuesday; services were held in Tulsa, OK.

THOSE TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Lord's table (front): Mike Batot, Thomas Rathbun, Brandon Howard, James Gilliam, Denzil Myers, Stan Selby, Glen Kelly, Henry Seidmeyer **(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Virgil LaFerney, Keith Vaughn, Derroll Allen, Roy Martin **p.m.** Robert Ruckman, Bill Paschall

Card Pickup: a.m.: Toby Howard, Kenny Mayer **p.m.:** Nathan & Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: Mike Batot, Stan Selby

Communion Preparers: Garl & Michele Latham

NEWS OF THE SICK

·**Evelyn Armstrong** has moved to Vista Ridge Rehab, room #402; her number is 214-714-2486.

·**James Gilliam** has been home with the flu.

·**Faye Harrison** is now under hospice care at Hearthstone.

·**Joy Webb** fell and broke her leg, which required surgery; she requests no visits at this time, only prayers.

·**Beverly Sweat** is having problems with diabetes; please also pray for her sons.

·**Priscilla Mayer** (John's mother) was hospitalized with pneumonia but is now home.

·**Gina Pearson** (the Baker's daughter) has been ill, but will soon have a biopsy done on a place on her kidney.

·**Wil Sadler** continues to have health problems.

·**J.T. Talley** (Debra Alonzo's nephew) had successful surgery.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom & Billie Prince, Frances Seidmeyer, Leo & Carol Townsend, Thomas West, the Wolfe's, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), the DiPalmas (missionaries).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- December 6: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- December 6: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- December 6 : New Bible Class Quarter
- December 13: Open House at the Hatch's

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- Brandon Howard
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Glen Kelly
- Henry Seidmeyer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Virgil LaFerney
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Ty Harvey
- Jerry Baker

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
- Psalm 36:5-11

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Dean Webb

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
- TBA

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Ty Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Mike Batot

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	81	84	92	125
A.M. Worship	148	144	156	210
P.M. Worship	72	70	85	112
Wed. Class	74	-	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	18	20	20	35
Contribution	\$54657	\$4431	\$5338	\$5474

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia
- Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia

Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenille, TX
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India