



Grow. Pray. Serve.

February 05, 2017

What is Your Motive?

1. A paradigm shift is a fundamental change or transformation of how something is seen. Events happen that shift the way we see things.
2. Jesus is the penultimate paradigm shifter.
 - a. By what he said and taught. If we pay attention and live by his teachings we see things differently.
 - b. By what he did. When we embrace and internalize God's power that is within us, we are never the same.
 - c. Resurrection of Jesus.
3. Matthew 5: Teaching on salt and light
 - a. Salt enhances flavors and makes things better. Jesus calls us to be like salt and make positive changes around us. Light is meant to be shared; we are to be like light and make a difference.
 - i. Doing what is right is not what makes us right with God.
 - b. His point was that doing things right all the time is not only impossible but not what God is looking for from us to begin with.
 - c. Jesus is saying, "Do good things, but remember doing good things is not what makes you right with God. Understand that we don't have to get it right 100 percent of the time because He is what makes everything right between us." This is grace.
4. Motives
 - a. We all have motives for what we do and say: to make money, get better at a skill, making a positive difference, etc.
 - b. But Jesus encourages all of us to choose one motive above all others. Jesus calls us to do what we do in order to respond to something rather than to get something.
 - c. Jesus says, do what you do in life as a response to the love and forgiveness of God. Be salt in life. Be a light in life. But be salt and be light because you know how loved and forgiven you are.
 - d. This is all about a paradigm shift. What if we woke up in the morning and instead of first asking, "What am I going to get today?" asked, "How am I going to respond to the love and forgiveness of God today by what I do and what I say?"
5. The question Jesus compels us to ask every day is "What is my ultimate motive?" Is it me or is it God?

Today's Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,[c] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



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