

## Dying To Wash Those Stinky Feet Matthew 5:21-26

- I. Those who depend on religion underestimate the results of the fall.
  - A. Humanity's fall into sin was devastating in its effects.
    - 1. Human nature was corrupted (an inherited trait).
      - (a) God's moral image in us was shattered.
      - (b) "All the king's horses and all the king's men..."
    - 2. It was a change in our nature, not just our behavior.
      - (a) Our nature can't be fixed by reforming our behavior
      - (b) That is why we need a Savior, a Redeemer (Galatians 2:21).
  - B. The most religious people of Jesus' day were the Pharisees.
    - (a) They believed that God gave the Law as a means of self-reform (a way to make oneself righteous).
    - (b) They thought behavior was the problem, not our nature. Jesus called them "whitewashed tombs."
  - C. Jesus taught that change had to be inside-out, not outside-in.
    - 1. Change the heart and behavior change will happen.
    - 2. The only thing that renews our nature is the Gospel!
      - (a) In the Gospel, a sinless Redeemer fulfills the Law.
    - 3. When we trust in him, we are made new on the inside.
      - (a) We are re-created, as our spirit is raised to life (II Corinthians 5:17).
      - (b) We are declared not guilty. Jesus has taken our guilt.
    - 4. One of the biggest impediments to people finding God, is thinking we can earn our way to God by good behavior!
- II. Jesus' reinterpretation of Law focuses on the heart.
  - A. The 10 Commandments said, "Thou shall not murder."
    - 1. The Pharisees focused on the external action, murder.
    - 2. But Jesus talked about the anger in our hearts (Matthew 5:21-22).
      - (a) The external action is the acting out of that anger.
      - (b) Jesus says the anger itself is worthy of judgment.
    - 3. Anger is an emotion that we inevitably feel (Eph.4:26).
      - (a) The question is, what do you do with your anger?
      - (b) If you harbor it and hold on to it, it becomes sin.
    - 4. Jesus is saying there is a spectrum of hate or animosity.
      - (a) Calling someone a fool seems minor.
      - (b) But it is full of anger, judgment, animosity.
      - (c) It is a degree of the same anger that murders.
    - 5. So, what is Jesus saying?
      - (a) Anger is evidence of the real problem, a fallen heart.
      - (b) Whether we murder or not, a fallen heart will be judged.

- (c) The only solution is Jesus. Have you trusted in his sacrifice?
- B. Jesus is teaching Kingdom values, that we are to seek peace
  - 1. Jesus is changing us from the inside-out to be like him.
    - (a) He calls us to deal with that anger (any degree of anger). We need grace to deal with it well.
    - (b) We are called to love and forgive as he has loved and forgiven us.
  - 2. If you were the one who messed up, what would forgiveness and restoration look like to you?
  - 3. How do you think Jesus would relate to you?
- III. Covenant calls us to peace, vertically and horizontally.
  - A. Today we will celebrate a sign of the New Covenant.
    - 1. The bread that he broke saying, "this is my body."
    - 2. The wine (grape juice) he shared: "this is my blood..."
    - 3. The oath signs represent what the parties are promising.
      - (a) Jesus will lay down his life, to reconcile us to God.
      - (b) We are called to do the same (Ephesians 5:25).
      - (c) We are called to die to tendency to put ourselves first.
  - B. There is a second sign Jesus acts out. He washed their feet.
    - 1. Jesus wouldn't have done this then unless it represented what it means to live in the New Covenant together.
  - C. The foot washing is much more than a call to serve.
    - 1. He spoke about it representing washing of forgiveness.
      - (a) In the New Covenant we are bathed from all sin.
      - (b) Yet, as we walk in the world "our feet get dirty."
      - (c) There is an ongoing need for forgiveness/restoration.
    - 2. What we miss is how demeaning Jesus' action would be in the culture of the Ancient Near East.
      - (a) In an honor/shame culture this is shameful.
      - (b) For the man to wash feet would be a loss of honor, social status, subjecting one to scorn and disrespect.
      - (c) It would be personally offensive to wash feet.
      - (d) It is scandalous for the Lord and Master to do this!
      - (e) That's what the cross will be like, shaming, offensive..
    - 3. Yet, Jesus did that for us, and he calls us to do the same.
  - D. To wash each other's offensive dirty dung covered feet.
    - 1. We are to wash what offends us most, the sin committed against us. We need to forgive and restore.
    - 2. That is what it means to be a follower of Jesus!