Engaging The Hearts

Jared Bollman · Matthew 5:13–20

INTRODUCTION

- Heartfelt devotion to God is something that just can't be faked. It's either there or it's not.
- For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.
- It doesn't matter how they do it. Not for my salvation. For my eternal judgment, it matters how I do it. It matters whether or not my heart was inclined to God's word.

1 Repetition for Its Own Sake Is Piety, Not Holiness

- Repetition for its own sake is piety and not holiness.
- If our service to God becomes little more than one generation mimicking the one that came before, retelling old successes, repeating old failures, but never truly achieving anything, then congratulations, we've become the Pharisees.
- This is how traditions are built. You teach something safe, you teach something repeatable, something that's easily remembered.
- I'm not doing what's necessary to be a saint that worships at the Decker Prairie Church of Christ. I'm doing what's necessary to be a child of God.

2 Law Keeping Without Heart Keeping Is Sanctimony, Not Devotion

Deuteronomy 10:12; Deuteronomy 6:4–7

- Law keeping without heartkeeping is just sanctimony and not devotion.
- We can be right, and we can still be wrong because our motives aren't what they should be.
- What does the Lord your God require from you? But to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways and love him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart.
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. With all your soul, with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
- When the heart is inclined, the righteousness takes care of itself.
- Righteousness begins in the heart that's inclined to God.

3 When the Heart Is Not Engaged: Apathy and Corruption

Matthew 23

- When the heart is not inclined to be spiritual first, then what happens is those things that are spiritual just become motions that we go through.
- There's an apathy that creeps in. We just get lazy.
- Am I doing this just because it's tradition, or am I doing this because it's true?
- Every one of these things comes from the fact that the truth did not abide in the heart.

- They showed contempt and disdain rather than reverence.
- When you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and the sick, is it not evil?

THE CHALLENGE

Properly engaged heart seeks first the Lord’s will and his ways and is motivated by his glory alone. Is that our motivation this morning?

MY NOTES