

SERMON OUTLINE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

'Behold your King' - 8

Matthew 6 v1 - 4

Key Picture - 'hupokrites' - the actor. See - v2a.

Key Question - Is your Christian life and testimony the real thing, or is it just an act to win the plaudits of those around you in the church?

Key Word - "righteousness" - v1a. There are two vitally important aspects to this righteousness which we need to grasp and understand if we're going to come to a true knowledge and experience of what the Christian gospel and the Christian life is all about - and the second follows on from the first....

1. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY GOD IN THE GOSPEL

This word "righteousness" explains what God is like. See - Is 45 v21b. But whilst God is wholly righteous (without sin) we are wholly un-righteous - and this is the bad news of the gospel. It doesn't matter who we are! See - Rom 3 v10. And it doesn't matter what we've done! See - Is 64 v6a. But here is the good news of the gospel - God has provided us with a righteousness. See - Rom 3 v21.

A. THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SECURED FOR US BY CHRIST

See - Matt 3 v13 - 15a & 2 Cor 5 v21. This is what justification is all about, which means - 'to declare righteous'. See - Rom 3 v23 - 24a.

B. THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS APPLIED TO US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

See - Matt 5 v6. It's only the Holy Spirit who can cause us to hunger and thirst like this.

C. THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RECEIVED BY US THROUGH SAVING FAITH

See - Rom 3 v22.

2. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS TO BE PRACTICED BY US IN OUR DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVES

See - v1a. Having received this righteousness from God in the gospel - this righteousness needs to be lived out. This is done in 2 ways.....

A. AS WE KEEP GOD'S MORAL COMMANDS

See - Matt 5 v20 & Ps 1 v1 - 3.

B. AS WE KEEP GOD'S RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

These obligations are 3-fold - to give (v2 - 4), to pray (v5 - 15), and to fast (v16 - 18). With respect to giving....

(i) The word of warning

Note - the importance of being seen by men! There is a right reason for wanting to be seen by men! See - Matt 5 v14 - 16. There is a wrong reason for wanting to be seen by men. See - v2 & v1b. If we are looking for the plaudits of men then that's what we'll get, but nothing more - there will be no reward from God because what we have done will have counted nothing with God!

(ii) The word of instruction

See - v3 - 4a. We are not give ostentatiously, but secretly. Re "don't your left hand know what your right hand is doing" - this is guarding against the danger of you congratulating yourself!

(iii) The word of promise

See - v4b. The reward here and now is 2-fold - seeing the need being met and pleasing the Father in heaven who has seen what we've done.