

11/26/17 Sermon Study Guide

Humility is required in Christ's disciples. Matthew 7:1-6- Pastor Brain Ricke

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, it is also the beginning of humility.

As we seek to worship the Lord our God in the power of His grace, with all our heart, mind and strength, I believe Psalm 51:17 speaks volumes.

Psalm 51:17 (ESV) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

As Christ is nearing the end of His Sermon on the mount, the hearer of this incredible sermon should now be at a place where they clearly see their sin and their need for a Savior like Jesus.

At this point if humility hasn't begun to manifest itself in the power of God's saving grace, then the only other response is denial and a hardness of heart.

We must remember that this sermon's primary purpose is to reveal our great need and utter dependency on the mercy of God for salvation.

Christ's intention at this juncture of the sermon, our text, is to establish that humility is necessary for a disciple of Christ.

Jesus focuses us on the two greatest commandments (*Matthew 22:37-40*).

1. Jesus warns against hypocritical arrogance.

Matthew 7:1-2, (ESV) "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

Here Jesus is warning those who follow Him not to place ourselves as judge over and against our brother or sister.

That is reserved for God alone!

Humility must be a primary characteristic for every disciple in Christ.

The initial forbidding is followed by a very strong warning!

Jesus reveals that if a Believer in Christ thinks that they can get away with that type of judgmental and hypocritical behavior toward another believer, that person is running the risk of being treated in the same way by God Himself.

We must remember, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; but it is also the beginning of humility.

Study Question:

A. Why do you think that Jesus is stressing His point so sternly?

B. How does Psalm 51:17 speak to our text?

2. Biblical correction must begin with self-examination and humility.

Matthew 7:3-5 (ESV), “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

This wonderful hyperbole, or exaggerated metaphor, really paints a profound picture. The whole idea of Christ’s illustration is purposefully absurd.

Remember this type of pride usually comes out of our own insecurity. It originates out of our own sinful nature.

Jesus reveals to His disciples that when we see sin active in the lives of others, our first response should be self-examination; our first response should be humility and mercy (Matthew 9:12-13).

Jesus continues to paint the picture by using the word hypocrite, basically saying, ‘Don’t pretend you’re a christian when you’re not willing to act like one.’

John 13:34-35 (ESV) “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Any and all correction carried out by a believer in Christ begins with self-examination and then proceeds with humility and gentleness with patience; treating that person as a precious brother or sister in Christ whom God loves dearly.

Study Questions:

A. How is God’s desire for restoration and reconciliation directly connected to this text?

B. Why are restoration and reconciliation so important to Jesus?

3. Disciples are to see other believers as precious.

Matthew 7:6 (ESV), “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”

I know that many see this verse as not directly connected to the previous verses. I want to express that I strongly disagree, I believe it is a very intentional statement by our Lord and Savior. It is my strongly held conviction that the pearls in this verse are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The dogs represent the evil nature of this sinful and wicked world.

What Jesus is basically saying here is do not, for any reason, throw a brother or sister in Christ under the bus.

One theologian states this about verse 6.

“This verse picks up and rephrases the theme of judgement in 7:1-5. Do not hypocritically judge your brother, and do not place yourself in the position of God over against your sister...

If you cast out your precious possessions [brothers and sisters in Christ] you might find yourself the target of wrath and destruction.”

“To condemn and reject a fellow believer unjustly is like giving something holy to be mistreated by dogs (the sinful world).”

Jeffery A. Gibbs, Concordia commentary, p. 373.

The Church is called to bear one another's burdens, fulfilling Christ's command to love, encourage and restore one another (*Galatians 6:1-2*).

Restoration and spiritual growth are always God's desire for fellow believers! Our response must be consistent with God's desire. Humility is the key!!!!!!

What we take away:

- 1. Pride and arrogance fuel judgmental thinking and are contrary to the saving Gospel of Christ!**
- 2. When we see sin active and present in other believer's lives, mercy coupled with humility, not judgement, should be our first response.**
- 3. All believers are to be viewed as precious, especially those we disagree with.**

Study Question:

A. Discuss the “take aways” and how they might be applied to your small group as well as Hope Lutheran Church.