

Publicans and Harlots in the Kingdom of God

Dealing with Double Standards:
an examination of the difference
between saying and doing
Matthew 21:28-31

Matthew 21:28-31

- “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him, The first. Jesus said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.”
- Tax collectors and prostitutes will go to heaven before a religious person who says one thing and does another.

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- Matt. 23:2-4 - “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

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- James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- 2Cor. 10:11 - “Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.”

What Are We Saying?

- We are to speak truth with one another
 - Eph. 4:25 - “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”
- We are to speak God's word
 - 2Cor. 2:17 - “For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”

What Are We Saying?

- Our mouth speaks out of the abundance of our heart
 - Luke 6:45 - “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”
- We ought begin with making our heart good, right, and holy that we may speak what is good, right, and holy

What Are We Really Doing?

- When we ask this question, we are asking what we are really doing, and not what we intend to do or what we think we are doing
- We judge others by what they say and do; we judge ourselves by what we intend to say or do
- I don't mind being judged by someone who judges himself/herself by the same standard; I resent being judged by someone who allows himself/herself more leniency than they give me.
- Most reasonable people agree

What Are We Really Doing?

- Matt. 7:1-5 - “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

What Are We Really Doing?

- Double standard damage
 - It hinders us from being able to help our fellow man
 - It hinders us from being able to help ourselves

What Are We Really Doing?

- How do we not see the beam?
 - Some cannot stand to look at themselves honestly and so choose to accept a lie about themselves
 - Some are just clueless
 - But the majority of people are not oblivious; they base their self-examinations on intentions rather than actions

What Are We Really Doing?

- Solution: remove the beam
 - 2Cor. 13:5 - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.”
- Only then will we be qualified to help our brother
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- Everyone around you sees you for what you actually do, not what you intend to do or hope to do. This is true in every relationship
 - Marriage
 - Parenting
 - Relationships

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- 2Cor. 5:20 - “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”
- Matt. 5:13-16 - “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- Work or school
 - Eph. 6:5-8 - “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.”

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- Among brethren
 - Heb. 10:24 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- Before God and Christ
 - Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- The world has never lacked people who say one thing but do another
- The old saying is true for the cynics of this world: “Christians are not perfect, just forgiven.”
- The great act of hypocrisy is someone who dismisses Christians because there are a few hypocrites among them.
- God will take someone who is trying but stumbles along the way, before He will accept a coward just making excuses for not trying

The Effect Of Saying And Doing

- We ought to consider our faults and failings and be humble, granting mercy and understanding to others for their faults and failings as we would like to have the same mercy and understanding for ourselves
 - Luke 6:31 - “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”