

The Disciple's Faithfulness

(Matthew 5:20-37)

- Introduction:
1. In this morning's lesson, we noted that Jesus called his disciples to a greater degree of righteousness than what was shown in the Pharisees of his day.
 2. How faithful we are to that challenge can be demonstrated in the way we live our lives.
 3. Let's note several ways Jesus mentioned that will demonstrate our faithfulness to an "exceeding righteousness."

I. The Disciple's Faithfulness Can Be Measured By...

- A. How we manage anger (5:21-26).
 1. Anger is not necessarily sinful (Mark 3:1-5).
 2. There is justifiable anger, but then there's "anger without a cause."
 3. Anger can be dealt with by venting, suppressing, or processing - the last option is biblical.
 4. Our anger will affect our worship as well as our eternal destiny.
- B. How we guard our hearts (5:27-30).
 1. Lust is not the same thing as attraction.
 2. (Matthew 15:19).
 3. Do what is necessary to remove this sin from your life.
 4. Pornography is more accessible today than it has ever been.
- C. How we value our marriages (5:31-32).
 1. The vows of marriage are to be kept.
 2. Society and religious folks say otherwise.
 3. But at the heart of the matter is one's faithfulness to God.
 4. Fornication is the only ground for scriptural divorce and remarriage.
- D. How we guarantee our words (5:33-37).
 1. Honesty was apparently hard to come by, even among religious people (Matthew 23:16-22).
 2. We must be men and women of integrity, who tell the truth.
 3. One lie will cause 1000 truths to be doubted, and we, who have a message of incomparable importance, need to be believed.
 4. (Colossians 3:9).

- Conclusion:
1. The righteousness that exceeds is determined by change in the inward man.
 2. However, that inward change cannot be hidden, but will find its way out in visible forms that all can see.
 3. If you have not been as faithful as you should be, Jesus offers you forgiveness and invites you to start all over again.

