

WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS? (Matthew 5:43-48)

I. The Christian must do more.

- A. Just by the way the question is worded, we should see that more is expected of the Christian.
- B. Jesus taught that our religion is worth little if it does not make us better than worldly people.
 - 1. We are raised up out of the baptismal waters a different person spiritually speaking (Romans 6:3-4).
 - 2. Things are new to one who is born again (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - 3. The Christian was once in darkness but now in light, and the two are easily distinguished from one another (Ephesians 5:8).
 - 4. We are to be different than the world (Romans 12:2).
 - 5. Colossians 3:7-10.
- C. Even the righteousness of the super-religious Pharisees was not acceptable to Jesus (Matthew 5:20).
- D. It is sad that many who claim to be New Testament Christians give no more, study no more, work no more, attend no more and pray no more than those in denominationalism.
- E. What are we doing more than these?

II. The Christian can't get mired.

- A. Too many Christians are mired in mediocrity or in being average.
- B. Too many are satisfied doing just enough to get by.
- C. "Thou shalt not kill" meets the demands of average, but Jesus condemned anger, the seed of murder (Matthew 5:21-22).
 - 1. 1 John 3:15.
 - 2. 1 John 4:20.
- D. The world is fine with the average of "an eye for an eye," but Jesus demands more (Matthew 5:39).
- E. The world is fine with the average of "Do not steal," but you can take as many shortcuts as you want to.
 - 1. Take long lunches or long breaks.
 - 2. Do as little work as you can to get by.
 - 3. Jesus said, "Defraud not" (Mark 10:19).
- F. The world's average is don't get drunk, but you can get right up to the point of being drunk and be okay.
 - 1. Paul said not to begin the process (Ephesians 5:18).
 - 2. Paul said to abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
- G. The world's average is be selfish as long as you don't hurt someone but God doesn't view it that way (Philippians 2:4).

H. The world's average says that you can fulfill your lusts as long as you are safe, but God says otherwise (1 Corinthians 6:18).

I. The world's average says that one church is good as another but Jesus taught otherwise (Matthew 15:9, 13).

III. The Christian must follow the Master.

A. Jesus is the Christian's example, not anyone in this world.

B. We are to follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

C. Jesus is the only way to get to the Father (John 14:6).

D. We plumb the depths of foolishness when we compare ourselves to others.

1. We aren't to compare ourselves even to other members of the church (2 Corinthians 10:12).

2. They are not our standard.

E. It is extreme foolishness to compare ourselves to non-Christians.

1. We are called to live holier lives than them.

2. There is no standard in comparing a Christian with a non-Christian because one is in Christ and one is not.

F. Jesus set the example in how to live with others, even those who hate us and persecute us (Matthew 5:44 & Luke 23:34).

Sermon idea and some material from Leroy Brownlow's "Great Questions From The New Testament."