

Good Intentions Vs Good Actions

Matthew 21:28-31

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- “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.”

What We Say or What We Do?

- One may consider himself numbered among the righteous, and if his religion is based only on what he says, he will be less likely to be saved than those who are clearly unrighteous.
 - The unrighteous know they are in need of salvation. The other already believes himself saved
 - 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!'”

What We Say or What We Do?

- 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.”

What We Say or What We Do?

- 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 we say must be what we do!**

What Are We Saying?

- Eph. 4:25 - “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”
- 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?

- Matt. 12:33-35 - “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. 34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”
- Phil. 4:8 - “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”

What Are We Really Doing?

- If we are saying what we ought to say, then are we doing what we are saying?
 - 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?

- We judge ourselves by our intentions, and we judge others by their performance.
- Intellectually, we may have the right priorities, even if we seldom act on them.
- We know we can do better, and perhaps at times have done better, and we console ourselves with that thought.
- Yet all the while, everyone around us sees what we are actually doing as distinct from our intentions, attitudes, and words.
- What we choose to believe about our works, and what others see us do, may be two completely different matters.

What Are We Really Doing?

- We profess to be Christians, members of the Lord's church; but, does our practice measure up to our profession?
- One professes to be a member of the body of Christ, but is known to use drugs or alcohol, or buys lottery tickets, or views pornography, or uses foul language. Does his practice measure up to his profession?
- One professes to love God and Jesus Christ, but is known to habitually absent herself from worship and Bible study. She goes shopping, to family gatherings, and to public activities, but states that she is too ill to assemble or else is afraid of contracting COVID. Does her practice measure up to her profession?

What Are We Really Doing?

- One undermines his or her profession of faith when their practice of it falls short. His or her family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and classmates see the obvious disparity. The only person deceived is one's self.
- Make the practice fit the profession, or else the profession becomes a lie.
- I am not suggesting that one cease professing allegiance to Christ; I am asking that you actually be what you say that you are.

The Impact Of Saying And Doing

- Remember: everyone around us sees us for what we actually do, not what we intend to do or talk about doing at some point in the undefined future.
- This is true in every relationship:

The Impact Of Saying And Doing

- Our husband or wife sees what we actually do; we will not long deceive our mate if we say one thing and do another
 - 1Peter 3:1-2 - “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.”

The Impact Of Saying And Doing

- Children are instinctive character judges.
- They are more likely do what we do than do what we say.
 - Eph. 6:1, 4 - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right... 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
 - Demands harmony between our words and our actions

The Impact Of Saying And Doing

- As the ambassador of Christ to our family and friends, co-workers and classmates what message are we delivering by means of our conduct?
 - 2Kings 22:4-7 - “Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people. 5 And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who are in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house- 6 to carpenters and builders and masons-and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. 7 However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully.”

The Impact Of Saying And Doing

- Do we keep your commitments to brethren?
- Three obligations to brethren that cannot be kept with verbal testimony alone:
 - Heb. 10:23-25 - “(1) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 (2) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, (3) but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Good Intentions Vs Good Actions

- Loving others is not merely about what we feel or say alone; it is about what we do.
 - Luke 6:31 - “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”
- Salvation is not received through feeling and saying alone; it is by doing