

5-20-18
Authenticity Not Superficiality
Luke 11:37-54

Prayer, Drives out demons – Accused of demonic power, Prove yourself, You can't/won't see

Miracles seldom result in faith; rather, they spawn curiosity, argument, and increased appetite for a sign. Fred Craddock, *Luke 158*

External purity rites vs internal character (greed and wickedness)

Tithe herbs but you withhold justice and the Love of God
Seek temporal honor from others but offer death in return
Create rules you think protect purity but they only crush and you offer no aid

Build prophets tombs to honor but you are really complicit in their deaths and all God sends

You build mindless tradition as a substitute for knowing our loving God and entering relationship with Him

What idols are the “religious” worshipping? god of Power (money, success, achievement)
god of self – to the detriment of those who need to see a different way

Jesus, as an obedient human, demonstrates that the authentic relationship with the Father naturally results in heartfelt actions for the sake of others not merely formalized religious practices. Are we similarly motivated servants or acting in certain ways in order to have others view us in certain ways?

As Jesus is living authentically, His authenticity creates accusations from the superficial.

Matt 11:19 He came eating and drinking they called him a glutton and drunkard with bad company.

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Pointing the way for the marginalized: **Matt 9:10-12** Tax Collectors (traitors) and sinners (rebellious): Marginalized (poor, women), Demon possessed, Chronically illness, Lepers, Blind, Deaf,
John 5:13:14 Or something worse will happen to you

Poor: **Luke 1:51-53** Mary's magnificat – parity between rich and poor

Consider the “Be Attitudes” **Matt 5:3-10**

Jesus does not appraise appearances but hearts. Both rich and poor can be equally faithless or faithful. Earthly, success esteem or wealth make faithfulness more difficult.

Luke 18:25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Jesus is rejected by the people he came to save – John 1 His own did not receive him

How is the contemporary church of the mark?

Contemporary church the gospel is being respected, successful, having fun and being happy.

Consider how far away the “American Dream” is away from some in our own society, but what about the refugees due to ethnic cleansing in Africa and Asia?