

High on Talk, Low on Walk

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-6 Lar - FPU - Women's Retreat. Divorce Care. Stir. Better Together.
- B. Slide7-10 Oddny - Refugee Update.
- C. Slide11 Baby Dedication 3rd - Scott & Ashley Hauser. *Landon Scott Hauser*.
- D. Slide12 Brian - Feb *Children at Risk* cancelled for the Go Mobile Event (local pro-life min).
 - 1. Sun Night of Prayer 6:30-7:30pm tonight. Agape Rm.
- E. Prayer - Lord, may the Spirit of **Truth** to instruct us. The Spirit of **Holiness** make sensitive our conscience. The Spirit of **Power** triumph over our old nature. **And**, the Spirit of **Love** to expel everything else from our hearts. *Griffith Thomas*

II. Slide13a **HIGH ON TALK, LOW ON WALK**

- A. *Read Text...*
- B. Here is our Lord's last **public** message (1-13), before He withdraws from the people. [Then **private** to the Pharisees rest of ch.] **What topic does He pick?**
 - 1. This is the most **severe language** Jesus ever used in His Ministry.
 - 2. **Beware of the Scribes...Why? Because they are Proud lovers of...**
- C. **Keep in mind** we are going to look at **what Greatness** is.
 - 1. Slide13b *Pharisees try to find it in...4 Places. 3 Titles. 2 ways to be seen. 1 way to be high on Talk, Low on Walk.*

III. Slide14 **IS GREATNESS FOUND IN PLACES? (2,6,7) 4 places**

- A. Slide15 **Moses seat** (2) - refers to the tradition and authority of Moses. The Pharisees believed that they alone interpreted the words of Moses properly. **Thus** you notice **they seated themselves** in this chair. [this one found in Chorazin]
 - 1. This was an actual **chair** each synagogue had.
 - 2. Still used when **the Pope** speaks *ex Cathedra*, from or *out of* the seat of the chair (of authority). Our **Universities** still use this, as someone **Chairs** the Science Dept.

- B. **Best places at feasts** (6a) - When the wealthy gave feasts, **Scribes** were considered *necessary ornaments to adorn the meal*. They were given a place of honor to the right or left of the host (even above the parents).
- C. **Slide16a Best seats in Synagogue** (6b) - Seats at the front of the synagogue, facing the congregation, their backs against the chest holding the Torah, where they could see & more importantly...*be seen*.
- D. **Slide16b Greetings in Market place** (7) - they didn't love greeting others, **or** being a greeter, **but** loved when *everybody else knows their name*.
- Slide16c** The character **Norm** on Cheers in the 80's embodied this...
Sometimes you want to go Where everybody knows your name, And they're always glad you came; You want to be where you can see, Our troubles are all the same; You want to be where everybody knows your name.
- E. A basic fact of Christianity is that it ought to make a man wish to **obliterate**-self **rather than** to **exalt** it.
- F. **Is Greatness Found in Places? No.**

IV. **Slide17 IS GREATNESS FOUND IN TITLES? (8-10) 3 titles**

- A. All Titles & honors **aren't** automatically a bad thing. **But** if you are so proud of your title & honors that gives occasion for *your pride to parade its ugly self*, then they are Forbidden. [diff of someone *using* your title, **vs** you making them use it every time]
- In contrast to the Pharisees.** Jesus commands them to avoid the pride and prestige that accompany **titles**. [we can also become **prideful** of **NOT** using titles, **ha!**]
- B. **Rabbi** - My great one. **Your all brethren, on the same plane, no need to raise yourself up.**
- C. **Father** - Don't call anyone on earth your father (in a spiritual sense).
- Biological father is ok. Paul even calls himself a spiritual father.**
- D. **Teacher** - God has placed sp. leaders in the church, **but** they must not replace God in our lives. And they must not lead us into bondage to his/her ideas & beliefs.
- Slide18 The Savior prohibits not so much the Titles themselves, but the spirit of Pride & ambition which covets & abuses them.** Lang
 - If a person is important only because of the **uniform** they wears, the **title** they bears, **or** the **office** they hold, **then** their importance is **artificial**.

3. [*Katrina/New Orleans. *Yur jst showin off yur Badge*]

E. Reverend has always been a problem around Calvary because of Ps.111:9 *Holy & Reverend (awesome) is His name*. It's only used here & as a reference to **God**.

1. Now, I guess you can sometimes use, *The High Most Awesome-est Right Reverend Brian J Bell the Maximus* every once in a while :)

F. Is Greatness Found in Titles? No.

V. Slide19 IS GREATNESS FOUND IN BEING SEEN? (5) 2 ways to be seen

A. Many keep the laws of God to the eye, but violate them in the heart.

B. These men used **Religion** to *Attract Attention*, not to Glorify God.

C. They even used Religious ornaments to display their piety.

D. Examples: Phylacteries & Borders of their garments.

1. Keep in mind while talking of these that they are not bad ideas in & of themselves as a useful reminder.

E. Slide20 Phylacteries/Tephillin/Frontlets - [Made of black calf skin. 4 compartments inside. Inside 4 parchments w/4 passages of scripture (2 Ex - 2 Deut)]

1. Slide21 From Ex.13:9 *It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Lord's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.*

a) Meaning: Hand (you shall *handle* His word). Eyes (you shall *think* about it). Mouth (you shall *speak* about it).

F. Make them broad - Show head one. [Broad spoke of the Case, not the contents]

1. Size = Zeal. Wearing large ones took the place of *obedience*.

2. What do you use to make yourself *look religious* that takes the place of *true obedience*?

G. No wonder Jesus ridiculed such *minute concern for pretentious externalism & literalism*.

H. Slide22 Enlarge the Borders - Even Jesus had this *hem* on His garment. From Numb.15:38

1. It was to remind them of the 613 law's. *That's a good thing to remember.*

2. But here the leaders came up w/more minute rules about the # & the length of the fringes knots.

3. Plummer said, “*Such things were useful as reminders; they are fatal when they were regarded as charms!*”

I. Is Greatness Found in Being Seen? No.

VI. Slide23 IS GREATNESS FOUND IN SAYING OR DOING? (3,4) 1 way to be high on talk, low on walk

A. Observe what they tell you. Obviously only what is taught from scripture not their man-made rules & traditions.

1. The Word of God has authority even if the people who teach it lack integrity.

B. Our Lord’s standard is both do & teach His truths.

1. Slide24a 1 Thes.2:10,12 *You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe...that you would walk worthy of God...*

2. If we Practice Hypocrisy, we erode our character.

C. The remedy for Hypocrisy is honesty w/yourself & w/God.

1. Abraham Lincoln asked a great soul searching question, *If I were 2-faced, would I be wearing this one?*

D. So, they thought *outward conformity* = righteousness, w/o *inwardly* obeying the Law.

1. Slide24b Ps.51:6 *Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts* (the innermost part of a person), *And in the hidden part* (where secrets are kept) *You will make me to know wisdom.* or, MSG *What you’re after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new true life.*

2. Slide25 There is a *French Pear* called *Williams’ Bon Kretien* (The Good Christian) because they say *it is never rotten at the core.* [aka Bartlett]

E. (4) Jesus came to lighten burdens, not bomb-bard them w/burdens.

1. Instead of Spiritual leaders they were hypocritical religious dictators.

F. I think the Pharisees version of Mt.11:28,29 *went something like this... Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you more religious things to do. Take My yoke upon you because I can’t bear it, so I can find rest for my soul. And learn from me for I am a harsh prideful task master with a lot of smarts. For your yoke will be*

punishing & grueling *and* your *burden* really really demanding & heavy. *But my yoke will remain easy and my burden light.*

G. Is Greatness Found in Saying *not Doing*? No.

VII. Slide26 **SO WHERE IS GREATNESS FOUND? (5)** *2 ways in servanthood & humility*

- A. **Servant** - true Greatness is found in **servicing** others, **not** in forcing them to serve us.
- B. **Humility** - *Where our King rules...* whoever **exalts** himself will definitely be **abased**; whoever **humbles** himself, the King will quickly raise up.
1. Because they rejected **servanthood & humility**, they were *themselves rejected* by God.
 2. *Slide27 The way to rise, is to sink self. The lower we fall in our own esteem, the higher shall we rise in our Masters estimation.* Spurg
- C. For 20 centuries **the church** has been telling **the world** to *admit their sins, repent, & believe the gospel.* **Today**, **the world** is telling **the church** to *face up to her sins, repent, & start being the true church of that gospel.* Warren Wiersbe, *The Integrity Crisis* pg.17.
1. Do you ever turn your **religion** into a matter of outward **show & pride**?
 2. Do you ever tell your **right hand** what your left hand is doing?
 3. Do you ever tell your **friends** what both your rt & lft hands are doing?

VIII. Slide28 **MASKS**

- A. When Bob Hope hosted the Academy Awards in 1953 he opened by saying, “**This is the 1st time** the Academy Awards have been on **television**. You’ll see the faces of the **winners** and you’ll see the faces of the **losers** congratulating the winners. In other words, tonight you’re gonna see some *real Academy Award acting.*”
1. **We all wear masks, don’t we?** (look at your neighbor...that’s not them)
 - a) Often we believe our own story/lies. That’s a major issue with hypocrisy.
 - b) For instance, *the mask of selfishness maybe painful to peel off, but the result is too good to pass up.*
- B. *Slide29* **Masks** are worn to disguise who we really are. It can be done for fun. Or it can be done for harm.

1. Too often we wear masks to hide who we really are from **others** and from **God**. **However**, God can see through our mask.
 2. The Pharisees of Jesus day were guilty of wearing masks. So are most of us today.
 3. **Slide30a THE CAIN MASK**
 - a) **What We See** - a clean lifestyle of: Honest dealings. Kindness. *A good ol' boy, who ain't hurting nobody.*
 - b) **What God Sees** - a man with an impure thought life. Unforgiveness. Self-righteousness.
 4. **THE MOSES MASK** (2 Cor.3:13 *unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away*)
 - a) **What We See** - Ex.34 when Moses met with God on Sinai he received a sun-burn **or** actually a God-burn. To which the people were **scared** to look upon.
 - b) **What God Sees** - He wasn't covering up the **glow**, **but** the **fade**.
 5. **THE SONS OF ELI MASK** (1Sam.2:12-26, Hophni & Phinehas)
 - a) **What We See** - A fine family. A family of faith.
 - b) **What God Sees** - A family of misplaced faith. A family of superficial commitment
 6. **THE SIMON THE SORcery MASK** (Acts 8)
 - a) **What We See** - A seemingly "good" christian. Hard worker. Faithful member.
 - b) **What God Sees** - a man good at deception. A man with a work religion mentality. A man with a self serving commitment.
- C. **Slide30b** The tragedy is that many of us *wear masks all of our lives* and go off into eternity deceiving only ourselves.
1. **God can't work with our masks**. **And there is no mask ministry in heaven**.
 2. And some of us have become pretty good at **multi-masking**.
 3. We got a lifetime to perfect our **façade**, our **veneer**, our **working undercover**.
 4. **Maybe**, you're wearing a **marriage** mask. **Or** an **I got to be strong** mask. **Or** A **happy** mask...showing you're the life of the party...when behind the mask your

dying. Maybe you're wearing an *it's all good* mask. Or you're wearing the *sex appeal* mask, but you're aging & it's harder & harder to *keep that mask on*.

5. *Slide30c* Maybe, you're molding your face to fit your mask? *Either* what others expect of you or your perception of their expectation of you.
 [remember on the *Beany Boy & Cecil* cartoon of the 60's, at the **end** each character would pull off their mask. *Slide27d* When *Dishonest John*, the shows villain did, it was an exact duplicate of his face]
 - a) Put the mask on and God **can't** work (It's hypocrisy, phony, duplicity).
 - b) Take the mask off and God **can** work (It's vulnerability, honesty, authenticity).
6. *Slide31* Hand in your mask to Jesus, today.