

Preach What You Practice!

I. Intro:

- A. **Slide #1** Justice Conf: Kel in booth taking sign ups, answering questions.
- B. **Slide #2** Communion this month: (not today) But, this Wed the 8th & Wed the 22nd.
- C. **Slide #3** A woman once came to Gandhi and asked him to please tell her son to give up eating sugar. Gandhi asked the woman to bring the boy back in a week. Exactly one week later the woman returned, and Gandhi said to the boy, "Please give up eating sugar." The woman thanked the Mahatma, and, as she turned to go, asked him why he had not said those words a week ago." Gandhi replied, "Because a week ago, I had not given up eating sugar."
Preach what you Practice!
- D. **Outline:** Religious Overconfidence; False Security in Association; A Matter of the Heart.

II. Slide #4 RELIGIOUS OVERCONFIDENCE! (17-24)

- A. We are favored by God. We are a privileged people. Knowledgeable about Scripture. Models of morality.
- B. Do I tell others what is right but then do what is wrong?
 - 1. There seems to be **2 main categories** here: Their **Spiritual Advantages**(17,18); & **Their Privileges**(19,20).
- C. **Slide #5 Spiritual Advantages!** (17,18)
 - 1. They rested on the Law. [**rest = rely on**, finding rest or support in something]
 - 2. They had a special relationship w/God. [**you brag about your God relationship**]
 - 3. They knew His will.
 - 4. They approve only the most excellent of moral standards.
- D. **Slide #6,7 Their Privileges!** (19,20)
 - 1. They were a guide to the spiritually blind.
 - 2. They were a light to those in darkness.
 - 3. They were an instructor for the foolish.
 - 4. They were a teacher of babes.
 - a) 1st category deals w/their relationship w/**God**; the 2nd w/**others**.
- E. Is **having** the law the same as **living** the law? (nope!)
 - 1. **Theres a big difference between:** Profession & Possession; **between** Preaching & Practice; **between** Religion & Reality.
 - 2. **Greater knowledge** brings greater **accountability** to **act** on that knowledge.
- F. Paul is about to **prick** their pompous balloon of pride & presumption.

- G. (21-24) A shocking gap stood between their **profession** & their **practice**!
- H. They not only failed to practice what they preached; they did the exact **opposite** of what they preached.
1. Do you not **Teach** yourself? - [you have to **know** the truth to **teach** it, so will you venture to **teach** it w/o **applying** it yourself?]
 2. Do you **Steal**? - [8th commandment]
 3. Do you commit **Adultery**? - [7th commandment]
 4. Do you **Rob temples**? - [commit some irreverent act against a holy place] [not Giving?]
 5. Do you **dishonor God** through breaking the law? - [It becomes an *empty gesture* when you **break** the very Law that you were just **bragging** about] (i.e. "God, you have a wonderful Law, I just refuse to obey it!")
- I. You **teach** the right, you **preach** the right, you **say** the right, you **abhor** God's rivals, and you **boast** in Him alone. **Yes, but what do you do?** Don't hide behind the creeds and confessions.
- J. Hypocrisy in the **church** today:
 When we talk about **prayer** **but** never pray.
 When we believe **tithing** is right **but** never tithe.
 When we want to **belong** to the church **but** never attend.
 When we say the **Bible** is God's Word to man **but** never read it.
 When we **criticize** others **for** things they we do ourselves.
 When we **stay away** from church for trivial reasons **and** sing, "*Oh, How I Love Jesus.*"
 When they **continue in sin** all their lives **but** expect to go to heaven in the end.
- K. (24) **Slide #8,9,10** "Millions of Christians live in a sentimental haze of vague piety, with soft organ music trembling in the lovely light from stained-glass windows. Their religion is a pleasant thing of emotional quiver, divorced from the intellect, divorced from the will, and demanding little except lip service to a few harmless platitudes. "I suspect that Satan has called off his attempt to convert people to agnosticism. After all, if a person **travels far enough away** from Christianity, he or she is always in danger of seeing it in perspective and deciding that it is true. It is much **safer**, from Satan's point of view, to **vaccinate** a person with a **mild case of Christianity** so as to protect him from **the real disease**."¹
- L. Do I practice what I preach?
- M. Do I only preach what I practice?
- N. Do I expect more of others **than** I do of myself?

¹ Howard Hendricks, Faith in Tough Times, Preaching Today, Tape 140.

- O. **The Jews** had certain practices they put *too much weight in*...but so does **the Church!**
1. Look at this list of the **practices & traditions** that have become a fixed part of the evangelical landscape in America - the things that mark individuals & congregations as evangelical Christians: [quoted from Swindoll, Romans, Pg.45]
 - a) Defending the Bible as true; Baptism & the Lord's Supper; Scripture Memorization; Participation in high-profile evangelism rallies; Political activism; Tithing; Lists of "do's & don't's"; Christian lingo; Church Building programs; Altar calls in the worship service; To be overly expressive in responses from the preaching.
 - (1) None of these are bad in & of themselves. Some in fact are vital to the life & ministry of the church. But, can any of them **save** an individual? Can any of them take the place of **faith** in Christ's life, death, & res.? **No, they can't.**
 2. We had a Christian school that used to be in our league many years ago that **wouldn't pray with us** before our sporting events. **Come to find out the won't pray with anyone in their own organization, unless they were of the same *synod*!!!**
 - a) Though they wouldn't **pray** w/us...**Yet**, they came to **seek our advice** how we work the combination of our Church & School!
 - b) We can all find certain practices they we put *too much weight in*.

III. Slide #11 **FALSE SECURITY IN ASSOCIATION! (25-27)**

- A. I am a Jew! I go to Calvary Chapel! *I was born in the tent at CCCM. :)*
- B. **Circumcision**, a ceremonial rite the Jews *treasured* as a sign & guarantee of **Gods favor**.
 1. A sign of their faith. A symbol of their faith.
 2. **Picture**, what **baptism** is to us, a wonderful symbol of our faith in Christ.
 3. **Or**, a **wedding ring** between God & his people.
 - a) These are just both symbols. Its possible for someone to have been **baptized** & yet not really a believer. **And** the same if someone picked up someone else's wedding ring & put it on...that doesn't make them married to their spouse.
- C. A person was only a Jew if he was one **inwardly**. The circumcision that counted was a circumcision of the **heart**. [a new heart created by the H.S. that brings eternal life]
 1. **And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.** Deut.30:6
 2. **Slide #12,13 So *spiritually, authentic circumcision* was the "cutting away" of the old sinful nature. Have you cut away your old sinful nature?** (repented of your sin)
- D. You've heard of *guilt by association*...this is *guilt by thinking association means anything*.

1. I think the Baptist have their issues. The Pentecostals theirs. The Emergent church theirs. The Catholic church theirs. Those that just preach a social gospel have theirs. Cite any religious affiliation here. **But**, what about **Calvary Chapel**. *We have mass produced in the last 4 decades an arrogant lot!*

- a) **We arrogantly thought** for years we invented *verse by verse* teaching. **We arrogantly thought** that was the only way to teach Scripture, forgetting that we have no record of Jesus ever teaching that way. **We arrogantly thought** that we had cornered the market of conversions throughout the 70's & 80's during our "*denominations*" boom. [*Was it not to the credit of the Spirit of God*]
- b) Do you know how many conversations I've had with pastor friends in town regarding former C.C. Parishioners who now attend their churches, in which all their church practices are compared to C.C. "*Calvary doesn't do it that way!*" (then go back to a Calvary)
 - (1) The time I spoke at RCC & the guy who came up & said, "**finally some good ol verse by verse teaching!**" [**I wanted to cry & throw up**] [*Ps: I did a topical*]
- c) Do you think by saying, "*I started in the tent back at big Calvary*" means anything, to anybody? Do you think it does to God? Chuck? [No! He would say, **I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of my children walking in truth.** 2 Jn.4] *Not walking in a Calvary.*

E. So it's not a matter of having **Religious Overconfidence**; Or, a matter of having **False Security in an Association**; **But** it is a **A Matter of the Heart**.

IV. Slide #14 **A MATTER OF THE HEART! (28-29)**

- A. We might deceived ourselves by being familiar with the **truth** or our **religious affiliation...but** God is not fooled at all!
 1. Let's spring back almost 2600 years ago & listen in on a conversation with God & His man "Zeek". Ez.33:30-32
 2. **Slide #15,16,17** As for you, son of man(Ezek), the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, '*Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.*' So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they **do not do** them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their **hearts** pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as **a very lovely song** of one who has **a pleasant voice** and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they **do not do** them.
 - a) **Pastors worse nightmare**. People coming to hear you preach, people talking about your sermon...but they don't do anything about what they hear!
 - b) Imagine calling a **watchman's warnings** "**a very lovely song**". [Pastor, when you call us to **repentance of sin**...I hear Barry Manilow singing **Mandy!** **WHAT?**]
 - c) They didn't take God's word seriously.

d) Isaiah said it this way, **These people come near to me with their **mouth** and honor me with their **lips**, but their **hearts** are far from me.** Is.29:13

(1) Mt.15:8,9 Jesus said, **“Isaiah was right when he said...”**

e) **Complimenting the preacher** is not the same as obeying the **Master!!!** (www)

f) **Sensuality** hears & does nothing. **Spirituality** hears & obeys! G. Campbell Morgan

B. So we all need to go to the heart of the matter.

1. God’s word is **surgical**. It is meant to **pierce** hearts.

C. (29) Note play on words: **Jew** = Praise!

1. From whom do I seek my praise? (man or God)

D. **Luke 18:9-14 The Parable of Statue Man & Sponge Man!**

E. (9) As one said, **“If **Grace** is like rain, then one man here is a **Statue** & one is a **Sponge!**”**

1. **Can you picture that?** (Both being rained on, yet 1 **repelling** water, the other **absorbing** it)

F. (10) **2 men went up to the temple to pray** – each was a man; only a man!

1. **Whenever a man **crosses the threshold** of the temple/church, that is how they are listed by high heaven!**

a) **Employer** can sit next to **employee**; & **cop** next to **ex-convict**.

2. **Both went up to pray, & *right there in their prayers* the difference was revealed.**

G. **Slide #18 STATUE MAN!** (11-12)

H. (11) **Stood & prayed with himself**. I’m fully convinced, **Jesus was *hilarious!*** [Listen to His satire, wit, irony]

1. This man essentially prayed a **“*self-eulogy*”!** (tribute)

2. **A long list of personal achievements.** [Note: **“I”** 5 x’s]

3. Isn’t it interesting that one could **feel glad** that he doesn’t sin in **one way**, **while** he is **sinning** in another & perhaps **worse way!**²

4. **He had an **intellectual conviction** to come pray, **but yet doesn’t make contact with God.** [**Hell is full of *intellectual conviction!***]**

I. **God?** – Well, at last he started with that...**but** he never made another ref to Him.

J. (12) Fasting requirement was only ***once a year*** at day of Atonement.

1. **Wow! Here, twice a week!** (104 x’s a year)

K. **Tithes of all**, not just of field & stall.

1. **I guess he not only knew this, **but** was determined **God should know** it from him, & **others** around also.**

² Griffith Thomas; pg.274

- a) When all is said & done, I guess he not only **prayed to himself**, **but** he also **tithed to his own savings account**, **& fasted for his own health!**
2. Interesting, you can do all the **right things** **but to no avail** if it's w/the **wrong heart**.
- a) **Pride** is so subtle that if we aren't careful we'll be *proud of our humility!* 😊
3. When this happens our **goodness** becomes **badness**. Our **virtues** become **vices**.
4. We can easily become like the *Sunday School teacher* who, having told the story of the **Pharisee** and the **publican**, said, "**Children, let's bow our heads and thank God we are not like the Pharisee!**"
- a) **The Pharisee's prayer** **showed** he was **self-centered**; **showed** he was **conceited**; **showed** **his morality was based on negatives**; **showed** **his worship was based on externals**.
- L. **Slide #19 SPONGE MAN!** (13,14) [Or yes, you can call him *Bob!*]
- M. (13) **Standing afar off** – not front & center, off in a corner it seems.
- N. **Would not...raise his eyes** – Faith looks away...not at self!
- O. (13b) **God** – He starts the same way, **but attitude** is totally different.
- P. He does use "**me**", but immediately is followed up by a description of the person referred to, **a sinner!** [Oh, how he hated his sin!]
1. **The publican's prayer** **showed** he was **humble** before God and man; **showed** he was more aware of **his own sins** than those of others; **showed** he was not concerned about obtaining **material wealth**; **showed** he was conscious of his **standing before God**.
- Q. **Slide #20** (14) What a shock for His listeners to hear **the sinner** walked away justified **& not the holy man!**
1. God relates to those who **lost their pride & humbled themselves** in repentance!
- R. **Balloon Illustration:**
1. **Statue Man** - [Blow up balloon w/each of his statements; **Pop at end!**]
- a) God, I thank You that I am not like other men(blow) **extortioners**(blow), **unjust**(blow), **adulterers** (blow), or even as this **tax collector**(blow). I fast twice a week (blow); I give tithes of all that I possess (blow).
- b) He was **puffed up**...**filled** with his own hot air! **Pop it!**
2. **Sponge Man** - **No hot air**, "**love is not puffed up**". [**Limp**; can't pop an empty balloon]
- a) **Humble** = *lowly*, the idea is "*close to the ground*".
- b) He likes us **empty**, **not full of ourselves**.