

Sermon Notes

Importance of What's On the Inside

Matthew 23:25-36

Christian Sanich, 4/12/2015

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

Don't be like a clean cup full of yuck. (25-26)

What's on the inside of us is important - heart, character.

Self-assessment of your practices related to character:

Do I evaluate what's inside me?

Do I evaluate my character by the Bible?

Do I ask God to search me, and reveal?

Don't be a like pretty tomb, full of uncleanness on the inside. (27-28)

**Work on the inward desires to obey God,
not just an outward appearance of it.**

Do you really want to be pleasing to God?

We need to look inside ourselves.

Don't be like those murderous persecutors. (29-36)

They were storing up God's wrath.

They would persecute the early church.

**Don't hurt Christ's church because you are not dealing with
your character issues.**

**Deal with your character issues, so you don't end up doing
something far worse than you imagine yourself capable of.**

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

If you would like to receive weekly sermon application questions,
e-mail Christian@StoneCreekBibleChurch.org

Application questions for 4/12/15 sermon Matthew 23:25-36

Preparation: This is a hard subject to share with others. But we have an opportunity as a group to help each other be what God wants us to be. So let's share honestly and help one another. It may be good to break up into women and men for this one.

Jesus spoke about what is inside of us being important.

Are you in the practice of evaluating what is inside of you - your character, motivations, and desires?

Do you regularly evaluate your character by the Bible?

Do you regularly ask God to search you, and reveal anything wrong in you?

Do you really care if you are displeasing to God? Do you want in your heart of hearts to be pleasing to God?

How is that relevant to this discussion of working on our insides?

Through illustrations in the sermon, did you find anything specific in you that needs dealing with, especially something you haven't been dealing with? Some of the specific examples were: wanting stuff you don't need or shouldn't have, lust, and gossip.

Is there something else you see inside of you that needs work - character, motivation, attitude, desires?

If you don't deal with that, how might it result in something worse than you can ever imagine - hurting people around you, hurting the church, etc.? (I recognize this question is a little paradoxical - asking to assess something you can't imagine.)

Do you have some behavior that you have been working on improving, but you have been just working on the outward behavior?

Do you need to dig in and see whether there is something wrong on the inside that needs addressing - some motivation, desire, character issue?