

For the week of September 22, 2019
Preacher: Scott Grant

Deep Goodness

Fourth week in the series: *Blessed Are*

Matthew 5:17-20

In Matthew 5:17-20, Jesus contrasts a deeds-based righteousness (that of the scribes and Pharisees) with a heart-based righteousness (righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees). The righteousness that Jesus wants—and creates—for us is a deep goodness. How do we experience this?

Discussion Questions:

In Matthew 5:17-20, Jesus contrasts a deeds-based righteousness (that of the scribes and Pharisees) with a heart-based righteousness (righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees).

Consider the appeal of a deeds-based righteousness:

- The person who aspires to this kind of righteousness can take pride in her actions.
- He can feel that he belongs and quite possibly distinguish himself as someone who stands out among those who belong.

1. How have you seen this kind of “righteousness” in our world or in your own life?
2. How have you seen or how have you experienced the inadequacy of this kind of “righteousness”?

The righteousness that Jesus wants for his followers begins in their hearts, in the inner dimensions of their personality, and works its way out not least in deeds of love.

The Spirit is fostering this kind of righteousness in our hearts:

“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)

“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Romans 8:15)

3. If you have experienced this kind of righteousness, describe this experience.
4. How do you think you might experience this kind of righteousness?