



## **HEAVEN - Who goes there?**

### **Week 2: Rethinking good!**

#### **Sermon Notes**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17 CSB**

**<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 CSB

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts,...

5 religious groups:

1. Pharisees

- held positions of authority
- teachers and interpreters of the law
- Matthew 23:2-3 CSB

- The scribes and the Pharisees are seated in the chair of Moses. Therefore do whatever they tell you and observe it. But don't do what they do, because they don't practice what they teach.

## 2. Sadducees

- high, priestly positions.
- Acts 23:8 CSB
  - For the Sadducees say there is no resurrection, and neither angel nor spirit, but the Pharisees affirm them all.

## 3. Essenes

- monastic communities and practiced a communal lifestyle.
- strict purity laws and apocalyptic beliefs.
- Matthew 3:1-6 CSB
  - In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, 'Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!'

## 4. Zealots

- a revolutionary group
- Luke 6:15 CSB
  - Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot

## 5. Scribes

- experts in the Law of Moses
- Mark 12:38 CSB
  - He also said in his teaching, 'Beware of the scribes, who want to go around in long robes and who want greetings in the marketplaces'

Matthew 5:20 CSB

For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

## The Problem with Human Definitions of Goodness

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Matthew 23:4 CSB

They tie up heavy loads that are hard to carry and put them on people's shoulders, but they themselves aren't willing to lift a finger to move them.

Matthew 23:15 CSB

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to make one convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a child of hell as you are!

## Jesus' Radical Teachings on Goodness

Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for their focus on external righteousness while neglecting inner purity.

### Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)

1. Murder and Anger
  - Reference: Matthew 5:21-22 (CSB)
2. Adultery and Lust.
  - Reference: Matthew 5:27-28 (CSB)
3. Divorce.

- Reference: Matthew 5:31-32 (CSB)
- 4. Oaths.
  - Reference: Matthew 5:33-34 (CSB)
- 5. Retaliation.
  - Reference: Matthew 5:38-39 (CSB)
- 6. Love for Enemies.
  - Reference: Matthew 5:43-44 (CSB)

#### Other Instances in the New Testament

1. Sabbath Observance.
  - Reference: Mark 2:27-28 (CSB)
2. Clean and Unclean.
  - Reference: Mark 7:15 (CSB)
3. Forgiveness.
  - Reference: Matthew 18:21-22 (CSB)
4. Greatest Commandment.
  - Reference: Matthew 22:36-40 (CSB)

#### The True Measure of Goodness

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Perfection is the true standard of goodness.

## Rethinking Good: You Are Not Good Enough

2 Corinthians 5:17 CSB

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Conclusion:

1. Embrace Jesus' Righteousness.

Jesus offers a complete transformation, not just an improvement.

2. New Creation Means a New Cause.

There is only one who is good, Jesus.