

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

July 12, 2026 – Sent by the King: When Nothing is Good Enough

Main Passage: Matthew 11:15-19

Main Idea:

People with hardened hearts will always find a reason to reject God's truth.

1) The Heart of the Problem — Matthew 11:15–17

Main Truth:

Jesus calls people to hear with spiritual ears, but hardened hearts refuse to respond.

Key Points:

- Jesus narrows His message to those willing to listen.
- Israel heard the truth but refused to believe.
- God's truth doesn't change just because people refuse to respond.
- The problem wasn't the game—it was hearts unwilling to play by God's rules.

Application:

- Am I truly listening to God's Word?
- Do I want God's truth, or only what fits my expectations?

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 13:13–15; Isaiah 6:9–10*

2) The Rules Keep Changing — Matthew 11:18–19a

Main Truth:

Hard hearts continually change the standard because they have already rejected God.

Key Points:

- John was criticized for fasting and living a separated life.
- Jesus was criticized for eating with sinners and showing compassion.
- The Pharisees rejected both extremes.
- The problem was never John or Jesus—it was the hearts of the people.
- False religion replaces relationship with rules and performance.

Application:

- Am I trusting Christ or my own performance?
- Am I adding rules where God has not?

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 23:1–4; Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5*

3) Religion vs. Relationship — Matthew 11:19b

Main Truth:

God's wisdom is proven by the fruit it produces, not by the opinions of its critics.

Key Points:

- Religion says, "Try harder."
- The Gospel says, "Christ has already paid the price."
- Legalism measures God's love by performance.
- God's Word—not people—sets the standard.
- Wisdom is vindicated by the lives transformed through Christ.

Application:

- Is my walk with Christ driven by grace or guilt?
- Am I resting in Christ's finished work?

Supporting Scriptures: *Romans 3:20–24; Galatians 2:16; Colossians 2:20–23; John 19:30*

Questions for Reflection

1. Am I truly listening to Christ, or only hearing what I want to hear?
2. Have I substituted religious activity for a genuine relationship with Jesus?
3. Is my confidence in Christ's finished work or my own performance?
4. Where might legalism be robbing me of the joy and freedom found in Christ?
5. What step of faith is God calling me to take this week?

"Religion puts me in the driver's seat, and that's exactly where our sinful nature wants to be. The problem is that I make a terrible savior."

"The issue was never the message or the messenger—the issue was a heart unwilling to respond to God."