

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 5-26-24
Christianity 102 – Message 36 Part 2
The Beauty of Forgiveness and the Danger of Deceit

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) What did we see from the 4 men who brought the one sick with palsy to Jesus?
- 2) Why did Jesus say, “Son, thy sins be forgiven thee” instead of “get up and walk”?
- 3) Why did Jesus heal the man?
- 4) Is forgiveness an option for the believer?

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) As we watch Jesus we can grow and be encouraged.
- 2) Today – Is it really worth it to trade the old life for the new?
- 3) Today – Is it dangerous to allow your heart to be hardened?
- 4) Today – Is it dangerous to be deceitful?

2. Matthew, come follow me! Mark 2:13-17

a. Old life or new?

- 1) Mark 2:14 – How do we know this?
 - a) Tax collectors – absolutely despised by their own culture.
 - b) It is likely that Matthew was well to do.
- 2) When Matthew was confronted with –
 - a) Mark 2:14 –
- 3) The New Life in Christ begins immediately, doesn't it?
 - a) Verse 15 – He wasn't ashamed to invite his friends who needed Jesus.
 - b) Verse 16 – we learn what some of them are thinking and saying.
 - c) Verse 17 – Notice what Jesus said –
- 4) Who is a sinner?

b. Why trade the old for the new?

- 1) Application – unless something happens, what is the destination of the religiously righteous person?
 - a) What is life like for the religiously righteous person?
- 2) Application – Why did Matthew do this?
 - a) Matthew followed Jesus –

3. Trying to catch Jesus disobeying: Mark 3:1-5

a. They hated Jesus.

- 1) Some background before we read the text.
 - a) They rejected Jesus' message.
 - b) They hated Jesus.
 - c) They watched Him closely to try and catch Him doing wrong.

b. What does Jesus do?

- 1) He does what is right even when, at times, the majority thinks it is wrong.
 - a) The Bible indicates here that Jesus could literally see the hardening of their hearts.
 - b) Verse 5 –

c. What causes such hardness?

- 1) The Bible reveals that the heart and intellect are connected. It also describes the emotions, the feelings of a person.
 - a) Grief – John 14:1 –
 - b) Desires – Matthew 5:28
 - c) Joy – Ephesians 5:19 –

- d) Thoughts and reasonings – Hebrews 4:12 –
- e) Faith and Belief – Hebrews 3:12
- f) All of these things come from the heart – Luke 6:43-45
- 2) Guarding the heart for the believer should be a high priority.
 - a) If we are not careful, we will find out that sin causes a heart to grow hard and calloused.
 - b) Parallel in I Timothy 4:1-2 –
 - c) “Seared” – cauterized.
 - d) When we agree to truth with our lips and yet live differently with our lives, we are searing, deadening our conscience a little each time.
- 3) Would you want to know if your heart is in this condition?
 - a) Psalm 139:23-24 –
 - b) Back to Mark chapter 3:5-6
- 4) Application – What does a hard heart accomplish?
 - a) Think about this –
- 4. Today’s Take Away:
 - a. Have you traded the old life for the new life in Jesus Christ?
 - b. Have you recently taken the temperature of your heart?