



May 3, 2020 – Rick Myatt



## BETTER THAN PAINTING BY NUMBERS

8th and Final in a Series Called, "What Did He Say?"

**Passage: Matthew 5:48** - Topic: Being Complete

On Sunday, Rick completed our series on the difficult teachings of Jesus Christ. This time he explained what Jesus meant when He said to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.

He explained that some believe that the word "perfect" often means "complete" so they suggest that is what Jesus meant. But then Rick points out that the rest of the sentence rules out that explanation, because God is not a completed work, He is - well, perfect.

Rick provided us with a great overview of the big picture. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount was a frontal attack on the Pharisees. (Rick said we believers are works of art of God's creation, but in comparison, the outward good appearance that the Pharisees maintained was like paint-by-numbers - fake art.) Jesus addressed the fact that secret sins of the heart are not hidden to God. So He instituted a new system. In this system, if you have hatred or even just anger in your heart for someone, it is the same as murder. And lust in your heart is the same as adultery. And loving your neighbor means loving your enemies...people who are hard to love. Rick pointed out that it is easy to love your loved ones who love you. So the Pharisees could have a zoo of sins in their hearts and be regarded as super spiritual people.

Jesus told the crowd of commoners that the Kingdom of Heaven was theirs, not the Pharisees', and that *they* were the light of the world. They were poor in spirit: humble.

This was shocking to everyone. In fact, the human heart tends to revert back to "appearances" mode constantly. But in Christ we do have the power to have a godly heart, and our aim is to be like the Father. The follower of Christ, possessing the Holy Spirit, has a much greater potential to be godly than the Pharisees did.

In application, Rick provided us with three reminders:

- Be overwhelmed by grace. Trusting God to transform our hearts will give us more joy, humility, beauty - more *life*, than if we tried to be perfect on our own.
- Live in awe of God. See Him in the glorious creation.
- Ask for the Spirit to work in us, transforming our hearts to be more like God's.