



SERMON IN REVIEW

February 23, 2020 – Rick Myatt



THE CRUEL GAME

4th in a Series on Difficult Sayings of Jesus Titled, "What Did He Say?"

Passage: Matthew 18:1-9 - Topic: Humility

This past Sunday, Rick continued his sermon series aimed at understanding some of the more confusing teachings of Jesus Christ. This time we looked at the teaching of Jesus when He says it is better to cut off your hand if it makes your foot stumble, and tells us to be like children.

The background of these sayings is that the apostles were arguing amongst themselves as to who was the greatest. They were comparing themselves with each other. So Jesus' response was to be like children in their position in society: humble. Rick pointed out that to compare oneself to others was like being on a staircase that never reached the top: no satisfaction would ever be found on that staircase.

Then Rick explained that when Jesus spoke of causing a little one to stumble, He was referring to believers. Jesus indicated that it would be better to drown than cause a believer to lose his faith.

Then Jesus said it would be better to lose a hand or foot than to miss out on going to heaven. He didn't mean we should literally cut off a limb, but that we should make sure not to miss out on going to heaven. And one way to cause a believer to stumble is to lure him into the cruel game of comparing himself to others, competing for the title of who is greatest, which is pride.

Then Rick presented three reasons why humility is so important:

1. It enables us to relate with God. It is the only way. You can't be about proving your greatness and God's greatness at the same time. You must choose one or the other.
2. It is the only way to have peace. We can never have peace when we can't find satisfaction, and we can't find it on that never-ending staircase of competition.
3. It is the only way to love others. Your focus when comparing yourself to others is on self. Be more concerned about advancing others than about advancing yourself.

In conclusion, Rick gave us three reminders:

1. Remember the intense power of humility. It means you choose to put others first. This says nothing about our worth before God. ***It says everything about what we think matters.***
2. Pursue true humility. It is not self-abasement. ***The way to be truly humble is to be utterly consumed with the desire for God to be honored, glorified, worshiped.***
3. Apply the cross to your life. Remember that it took the horrific cross to resolve your sin. That's who you were. ***We should never forget that our efforts to establish our own greatness, in the eyes of others, are a denial of our worth before God.***