Sermon Reflections

Can People See Heaven In You?   (Matthew 5:31-48)

Summary: Heaven breaks in and changes Christ's people to be like their Heavenly Father.

Heaven Raises…

1. **Our Commitment to Marriage (vv. 31-32)**

    *   God takes the institution of marriage seriously. In these verses, how do you see God's commitment and emphasis on marriage?
    *   What were a few reasons that some Jews thought a marriage could be dissolved?   What was the allowance (not requirement) that Jesus made for a marriage to be dissolved? How does this passage allow for <u>re</u>marriage? What is the implication of remarrying when a marriage was not dissolved under the allowances found in Scripture?
    *   If you are married, how you have allowed God to raise your commitment to marriage?

2. **Our Estimation of Our Word (vv. 33-37)**

    *   What do we learn from these verses about how some Jews used different types of oaths not to fulfill their commitment, but rather as a means *not* to fulfill their commitment? Is taking/making oaths wrong? Did God ever make an oath? Why did He do that?
    *   How does keeping your word reflect that Christ is in you and working in you?
    *   How much of a struggle is it for you to make a commitment with your word and keep it?

3. **Our Willingness to Be Wronged (vv. 38-42)**

    *   In these verses, what are six things that Jesus directs us to do? Which involves being insulted?
    *   Is there one (or more) of the six things that you feel like you have been able to do because Heaven (Christ) is or has been at work in you? If yes, which one(s)?
    *   With regard to these things, God wants more than outward conformance. What does He want?

4. **Our Love to Heaven's Height (vv. 43-48)**

    *   What had some of the Jewish leaders believed should be done to their enemies? What has God called us to do for our enemies? What does that model when we do what God has called us to do for our enemies?
    *   Some incorrectly believe that these verses mean that we should always allow others to take advantage of us. How would you counter this incorrect interpretation?