**MORE THAN OTHERS**

**MATTHEW 5:43-48**

 In our text Jesus is basically saying 2 things.

1) If we are content just to help those who can help us back, we are in the same class with them.

 Jesus was telling them that if that was their attitude that “*You are no better than anybody else.*”

2) Jesus is telling us that we are to do more than others!

 They believed in eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth. Jesus told them about mercy and love.

 **Out text is a piercing accusation.**

 What are you doing more than others?

 In our churches there are 3 kinds of people: Spectators, anticipators, and participators.

 The **Spectator** is just there to observe.

 The **Anticipator** is expecting real blessings, but not doing anything about it.

 The **Participator** is busy singing, praying, worshipping, and shouting.

 There is a great need today for church people to be willing, concerned, diligent, and doing “MORE THAN OTHERS”.

**I. OTHERS PUT US TO SHAME**

 In India there are men who take off their clothes and cover their bodies with white ashes, neither cut nor comb their hair, and plaster their hair with cow manure (because the cow is sacred in India), and endure every type of torture and method imaginable to try TO GAIN FAVOR of their god.

 The Sun Gazer of India sat naked everyday for 15 years gazing at the sun, until his eyes were slowly burnt out and his limbs withered away from inactivity. He was serving his god—the sun.

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 One Hindu of India held up his arms for 20 years, until they were stiff in that position. Why? He wanted to appease his god.

 The Japanese Hell-Divers made suicidal plunges unto an enemy ship only to blow themselves to pieces.

 The Muslim suicide bombers.

 The Communists drive our point home with this bloody oath, “*I will kill my mother before betraying the cause of communism.*”

WHY? THEY BELIEVED IN THEIR CAUSE? **DO WE???**

 There is no greater cause than the cause of Christ.

 There is no greater God to *serve* and *worship* than Jesus Christ.

 What are you doing more than others?

 God expects us to be zealous, on fire, alive, different, extraordinary, top-caliber, and busy doing more than others.

 Is there anyone in your family, church, fellowship who is a better Christian than You?

 One who READS more, PRAYS more, WINS more souls. SHAME ON YOU!

 What are ye more than others?

 When the devil comes before the Lord to give his account, what embarrassment and shame must come to the Lord because of the complacency of His children.

 Thank God there was a man named Job, who proved his love.

 God give us more Jobs.

**II. WE ARE TO BUSY COMPARING OURSELVES**

 We look around and pick out the *weak* and *faulty* members and compare ourselves.

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 We seem a little better than Backsliding Ben, Worldly Wally, Double-Living Dan, Gossiping Gertrude, Indifferent Ida, or Selfish Sally.

 We take the line of *least* resistance, but we need someone who will dare to be different from the run-of-the-mill Christian.

 When Jesus told Peter about what kind of death he would die Peter asked Jesus about what would happen to John.

 Jesus told him, “*If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me* (John 21:22).”

 For you see Abel did more than Cain; Abraham did more than Lot; Joseph did more than his brethren; Moses did more than Aaron; Jacob more than Esau; Peter, James, and John more than the rest of the disciples.

 In I Chronicles 4:9,10 there is a man named Jabez who is lost in a bunch of names.

 The Bible says that he was more honorable than his brethren.

 His brothers did well, but he excelled *above* them all!!

 His name means “sorrowful”. Maybe you started out causing suffering and trouble, but you can now cause joy!!!

 That boy had a prayer, and God ended up answering his prayer.

 I Chronicles 26:10, “*Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons; Simri the chief, (for though he was not the firstborn, yet his father made him the chief;)*”

 He wasn’t supposed to be the leader.

 In 1855, Rev. J.H. Moore, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Connor, asked one of his young men to do “*something more*” for God. The pastor said, “*Could you not gather at least 6 of your careless neighbors and spend an hour with them in reading and searching the Word of God?*”

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 The boy founded the Tanneybrake Sunday School.

 2 years later, the teachers got the burden to do something more.

 They asked the parents of the children to come to a meeting for prayer and Bible-reading at the close of the school. Only 1 responded at first. But soon it grew to be the Sabbath School Teacher’s Prayer Meeting.

 Revival broke out, and in other places in England.

 Districts notorious as the scenes of party and strife witnessed the triumph of the Gospel of Peace. Bitter enemies reconciled.

 One city, by the name of Belfast, became like a city of God.

 We don’t all have the same *experience* and *wisdom* as others, but we can love God just as much. You can worship, work, and pray just as much.

**III. HOW CAN YOU DO MORE THAN OTHERS?**

 Simply give your best and keep giving.

 73-year-old Iowa resident Aldin Straight needed to visit his ailing brother who lived on the other side of the state. There was no one to drive him, and he couldn’t read sign posts going faster than 20 m.p.h. So Mr. Straight did what he could. He rode his lawnmower 240 miles to be with his brother.

 Others would have given up. You don’t know what you can do until you try!!!

 A man came through a town and was sitting at the counter of a local café when a little boy pulled up beside him. They got to talking and the stranger asked the little boy, “*Any* *famous people ever born here?*” “*Nope*”, the little boy answered, “*Only tiny babies.*”

**CON:** What are ye more than others?

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Jesus said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*”

Matthew 5:48, “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*”

Ephesians 4:11-13, “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;* 12 *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:* 13 *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*”

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