



("SERMON ON THE MOUNT" courtesy of Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, Waco, Texas)

Matthew 5: 1

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged the religious leaders of that day

Those setting the righteousness standard for judging people in every way

Six hundred thirteen self glorifying rules turned into strict behavioral commands

Completely focused on outward appearance through harsh external demands.

Christ's sermon reaffirmed that God's written Word is the true guideline, indeed

But without God's help, man can never possibly be, righteous enough to succeed

The words of Jesus clearly point out how dependent we are on God's grace

Since the Father knows our inner thoughts, falling short is always the case.

Before judging others, an inner reflection is where each person should start

"For man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart."

Condescending eyes or harshly spoken words are used by people all the time

Falling short of God's righteous standard and morally for man like a crime.

Identifying and correcting a problem is imperative, and the right thing to do

Solving grievances with one another, forgiving as Jesus forgave you

Religious rituals will lead to nowhere if the heart is not pure and right

They're merely exercises in futility, and unimpressive in God's sight.