

Signs of Spiritual Sickness

Matthew 22:12-22

Introduction:

- How can you minimize sickness? Name one thing -
- Spiritual sickness is all around us, but many don't realize it
 1. Religious people who wrongly t_____ they are right with God.
 2. Those who are right with God and who think that they are spiritually healthy but really are not.
- The point of this message
 1. If you are unknowingly spiritually sick, that you will realize it and make the necessary changes.
 2. If you see someone who is spiritually sick, you will take opportunity to lovingly point it out to them.

Ignoring the w_____ of God (12,13)

- The situation of Jesus cleansing the temple
 1. Jesus entered the t_____ courtyard of the Gentiles.
 - a. This area was designated for non-Jews to p_____ to the God of Israel (Is 56:7).
 - b. The area was about _____ acres. Non-Jews were not allowed to go beyond this courtyard.
 2. Jesus saw merchants and m_____ changers
 - a. This was the week of P_____ where Jews from all over the Roman Empire made it a point to come to Jerusalem to celebrate it.
 - 1) They needed to buy s_____
 - 2) They also used this time to pay the temple t_____ (Ex 30:11-16).
 - (a) Only a certain c_____ was allowed to be used to pay the tax because they deemed all other coins as unholy.
 - (b) The acceptable coin was originally minted in Tyre, later minted in Jerusalem, but still had an image of a pagan g_____ stamped on it.
 - b. Merchants and moneychangers used the court to sell sacrifices and exchange money for p_____.
 - c. The religious authorities took a p_____ of the profits.

●The spiritual sickness

1. Jesus quotes two scriptures to point out spiritual sickness
 - a. Is 56:7 – *My house shall be called a house of p_____*
 - b. Jer 7:11 – *You have made it a den for robbers*
2. The merchants, moneychangers, and religious leaders ignored these scriptures in order to make m_____.

●Application

1. The teaching of purgatory was developed from the middle ages and was done for the purpose of p_____.
 - a. Purgatory was taught to be a place where believers go to be p_____ of their sin before entering heaven, which could take centuries!
 - b. The leadership s_____ indulgences to the people which gave them a certain amount time out of purgatory.
2. The Bible teaches that Christ's suffering on the cross sufficiently purifies believers of ___ sin (1Cor 1:31; 1Jn 1:7).
3. Many believers make their own purgatory by saying: I cannot f_____ myself for such and such a sin.
 - a. Are you a superior j_____ to God who forgave you all of your sins?
 - b. Was Christ's suffering insufficient for your sin?
 - c. The remedy - a _____ God's forgiveness.
4. Many believers get their self-w_____ from the wrong source.
 - a. Wrong sources of self-worth – performance, human relationships, and looks
 - b. The right source of self-worth – what God says about us (you are My c_____ – Jn 1:12; you are My artwork recreated in Jesus – Eph 2:10; you are a s_____, set apart to serve Me – 1Cor 1:2)
5. The word of God is your nourishment. Feed upon it and act upon it so you do not venture into spiritual sickness.

Ignoring the w_____ of God (14-17)

●The situation of Jesus healing the blind and lame

1. The children saw the miracles and shouted praises that Jesus was the Son of David (i.e. the Messiah or C_____)
2. The religious leaders believed that the miracles were c_____ the children into praising Jesus.

●The spiritual sickness

1. The religious leaders ignored the m_____
 - a. Their agenda was to k_____ Jesus ever since they heard that He raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:53).
 - b. They were afraid of losing their powerful p_____ given them by the Roman government (Jn 11:48).
2. They were spiritually b_____, lame, and dead.
- Application – today Jesus is with believers through the Holy Spirit and continues to do His work on earth t_____ believers.
 1. The most common miracle – s_____
 - a. Moslems ignore this miracle among their own people!
 - b. Christians see the miracle of salvation but ignore it
 - 1) By not taking opportunities to w_____
 - 2) By not supporting m_____ work.
 - 3) God is passionate about saving the world through us!
 2. The extraordinary
 - a. Believers conquering a_____ (e.g. alcoholism, drug addiction, cutting, pornography, eating disorders)
 - b. If God can deliver a person from addictions, He can certainly deliver you from falling to any t_____ (1Cor 10:13).

Neglecting p_____ to God (18-22)

- The situation of Jesus cursing the fig tree
 1. Jesus cursed the fig tree because it was in full l_____, giving the appearance that it had fruit when it had none.
 2. Jesus used this as an object lesson for p_____
 - a. Any believer can do the same (remember, Jesus only did as the Father commanded) – Ask God, b_____
 - b. Believing
 - 1) Can mean just believing with the m_____ (Jms 2:19 – *the demons believe that God is one but shudder*).
 - 2) But here it means believing with the h_____ (i.e. trusting in God to do what He says He will do)
- The application
 1. God commands us to keep asking, seeking, knocking (begging in prayer – Matt 7:7) – see sermon two weeks ago.
 2. God commands us to pray without _____ (1Thess 5:17)
 3. Prayer can help you from venturing into spiritual sickness.