

## Sunday Plus | 2.13.19 | Show Notes

**Josh:** What has drawn you to the Sermon on the Mount these past few years?

**Dustin:** I took a class at Southern Seminary taught by Dr. Jonathan Pennington. He opened up my eyes and helped me see the Sermon as Jesus' vision for life in His Kingdom. I became fascinated by Jesus, on the mountain, taking the law and deepening it by making it about the heart. The more I studied it the more I fell in love with Jesus and how he turned the world upside down.

**Josh:** You told us that Jesus is teaching us how to *Flourish*. What does this mean according to Jesus? How was His teaching contrary to the teachings of His day? How is it contrary to our ideas today?

**Dustin:** To flourish is a way of being in the world that leads to thriving. The key is that *Jesus defines what it means to thrive in terms of His Kingdom*. The people of Jesus's day thought the Messianic King would come in and parade around his royalty and usher in a worldly Kingdom. This is all they had ever known about how Kings function. They saw his Kingdom being inaugurated by the external, rather than the internal.

When you look at the current day, everything that Jesus teaches is counter-cultural. It is upside down. It is in opposition to what we learn in our sinful world. Jesus teaches a way of *being* and the world teaches a way of *doing*.

**Josh:** You mentioned the waters of Judgment in Matthew 7:24–27. What would you say to someone who says: “I don’t believe in that kind of God. My God is a God of love. Christians shouldn’t be so judgmental.”

**Dustin:** *If God is only love, mercy, and grace, then He is an incomplete God*. Scripture teaches that He is holy or perfect in all His attributes. This includes justice. So, God's judgement is not an example of His love but of his justice.

Imagine a human judge knowing that someone is guilty and deserving of punishment, yet choosing to let that person go free. We would call them evil and curse their name. “That’s not fair!” God is the author of this world and all that is in it. He set the standards for living in motion and he decides the punishment. We know this to be the way it works in the judicial system.

An example of God's love is that while we were still guilty sinners deserving death, He sent His son Jesus to die a criminal's death in our place. An example of God's grace is that He would supply Himself for our need of the moment – freedom from sin. An example of God's mercy is that he delays judgement, because He wishes all to come to repentance. *When we pick and choose God's attributes we make Him small and write an ending to our Story that is not true.*

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God is clear that there will be a judgment and that those who accept Him will spend forever in His presence, in a real place called Heaven, and those who reject him will spend forever separated from Him, in a real place called Hell.

**Josh:** Practically speaking, what are some things you and your family are doing to “Build your lives on Jesus’ teaching”? What are some obstacles you’re facing? What’s helping you?

**Dustin:** We really have tried to build great evening routines that include prayer, scripture reading, and the Parent Cue app. Also, we try to have people in our home that we are discipling, and let our little girl run around while we do it. She even joins us in prayer.

As a couple, I learned that *spiritual leadership is not one size fits all*. The best thing we do is talk about what God is teaching us and we will minister together this baseball season as the Chaplains for the Midland Rockhounds. *Our busiest obstacle is business and inconsistency.*