

“What Do Ye More Than Others?”

Matthew 5:38-48 (text. v. 47)

This arresting question was asked by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is primarily kingdom principles, but much still applies to us today. Jesus contrasts the principles of His Kingdom to the philosophy of the world.

➔ For example: The philosophy of the world is, if someone treats you wrong, you treat them wrong—One dirty deed deserves another. However, Jesus set a better example for us to follow. Read 1 Peter 2:19-23.

➔ Jesus holds us to a HIGHER STANDARD. Christ expects us to be different and better than the world. Jesus raises the “bar” of what He expects of His followers (cf. vs. 20-22, 27-28).

1. To turn the other cheek (v. 39).
2. To give more than is asked (vs. 40).
3. To do more than is required (v. 41).
4. To love your enemies (vs. 43-44).
 - It is easy to love those who love you. But Jesus expects you to love those who are unlovely... those who are hard to get along with... those who despise you and want to cut your head off!
 - Paul reaffirms what Jesus said—

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(Rom. 12:14, 17, 21).

➔ To put Jesus’ question in colloquial English:

- v. 46—“If you only love people who are members of your church, or members of your political party, don’t even the heathen do that?”
- v. 47—“If you are only friendly towards your family and the people you like, don’t even the unsaved do the same?”

➔ If you only help those who help you... If you just do things for people who do things for you... If you only love those who love you, you are no better than they are.

I. The EXPECTATION in the question. Jesus expects us to do more.

Jesus asks this question to provoke us to consider and evaluate our relationships and what we do for God.

- A. The CONVICTION of the question—“***What do ye more than others?*** A heart searching question—What are you and I doing more than others? How are you and I different from the world if we do everything by the same standard as they do?”
- B. The CONSIDERATION of the question. 1 Samuel 12:24—
, [with gusto]:
CONSIDER HOW GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE FOR YOU.”
When you

- The Sadhus of India, lay on beds of nails to prove their devotion to their false god.
- Jehovah's Witnesses do more to propagate their damnable heresies by going door-to-door than many Christians do to spread the true Gospel. J.W.'s would rather let a loved one die than go against their false doctrine about blood transfusions.
- Mormons will serve as a missionary for two years AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, to spread their false doctrines.
- During WW2, Japanese kamikaze pilots would die flying their planes into American naval ships.
- Muslims will become suicide bombers to take the life of one or more infidels and advance the cause of Islam.

“What do ye more than others?” *What do ye more than...* J.W.'s; Mormons... Muslims?

Someone says, “But those examples are ridiculous!” Yes, and how ridiculous that we Christians cannot be that zealous for the things of Christ which make perfect sense!

There are environmentalists who will hang suspended from bridges in stormy weather for days for what they believe in. Every time I see this on the news, it makes we wonder, am I that dedicated to the cause of Christ?

“WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS?”

Some Seahawks fans are more dedicated to football than many Christians are to God. They'll sit outside a ticket outlet for days, in all kinds of inclement weather, and pay hundreds dollars to see a game. ***What do ye more than Seahawk fans*** On game day they paint their faces blue and green, wear crazy wigs, dress in wild costumes, and cheer at the record breaking decibels for a touchdown. Where are the Christians who are that fanatical for Jesus? ***“What do ye more than others***

The Bible says, “***do it with thy might***” (Eccl. 9:10). Paul exhorts, “***do it with thy might***” (Col. 3:23). Again Paul exhorts us to be “***do it with thy might***” (Rom. 12:11).

During the first century, one of the most brutal persecutors of Christians was the Roman Emperor Nero. He fed Christians to the lions.

He tells how he would hang Christians on stakes and set them fire as human torches to illuminate his garden parties at the palace.

Nero had an elite band of soldiers known as the Emperors Wrestlers. These men were the best and bravest soldiers in all of the Roman army. They would stand before the Emperor's throne and sing, "We the wrestlers, wrestling for thee, O Emperor, to win the victory and from thee the victor's crown."

One year Nero sent his wrestlers to Gaul to end a rebellion under the command of Vespasian (Ves-pay-sion).

While in Gaul many of the Emperor's Wrestlers became Christians. When Nero heard this he sent a message to Vespasian: "If there be any among your soldiers who profess to be Christians, they must die."

It was in the dead of winter. Vespasian and his soldiers were camped beside a frozen lake in Gaul. Vespasian assembled his troops and asked, "Are there any among you who profess the name of Christ? If so, let him step forward."

Forty soldiers stepped forward. Vespasian was stunned! He had not expected any to step forward. Vespasian said, "I give you until sundown to recant and to deny your faith."

At sundown the soldiers were again assembled and Vespasian asked: "Who still clings to the Christian faith, even if it means death?"

Again forty soldiers stepped forward. Vespasian was heartsick. He did not want these men whom he respected and fought with them side by side, to be executed.

Vespasian reluctantly said, "The decree of the Emperor must be carried out. You shall remove your clothes and stand out on the frozen lake until you freeze to death. If any of you will recant and deny Christ, you may return off the ice and your life will be spared."

The forty soldiers stripped off their clothing and marched onto the frozen lake. But as they marched onto the ice, they sang; "Forty

wrestlers; wrestling for thee O Christ; wrestling for the victory and wrestling for the crown of life.”

Hours passed as Vespasian stood by his campfire and watched those forty wrestlers out on the ice. As they grew weaker, their singing grew fainter and fainter; “Forty wrestlers; wrestling for thee O Christ; wrestling for the victory and wrestling for the crown of life.”

Finally, one lone soldier walked off the ice and came to the edge of the fire, renouncing Christ. Vespasian looked at him with disgust as he faintly heard from the frozen lake; “Thirty-nine wrestlers, wrestling for thee O Christ, wrestling for the victory and wrestling for the crown of life.”

God touched Vespasian’s heart. He slowly removed his cloak, helmet and armor and calmly walked out upon the frozen lake to join his men. As he walked, he chanted; “Forty wrestlers; wrestling for thee O Christ; wrestling for the victory and wrestling for the crown of life.”¹

This is an example of doing "more than others.”

III. The **EXCUSES** for avoiding the question.

We can all come up with excuses for why we don’t do more than others. We are like those of whom Jesus spoke—

"(Luke 14:18).

We try excuse ourselves by comparing ourselves with someone who is not doing as much as we are. “Well I’m doing more than Backslider Ben... Double-Life Dan... Gossipin’ Gertie... Jealous Jenny... Liquored Up Leonard... Worldly Willie... or Scary Gary. We can always look around and find someone who is doing less that we are.

But **these are not our standard**. JESUS IS OUR STANDARD, and when we compare ourselves with Him we realize how much more we should do.

There are basically three kinds of people present at Bible Baptist today—The **spectators**... **anticipators**... and **participators**.

1. The **spectator** comes to watch and observe (like he would go to see a movie, or sporting event).

¹ <http://www.andykenney.com/40-wrestle...ing-for-christ>

2. The **anticipator** comes expecting something good to happen but doesn't do anything to make it happen.
3. The **participator** is actively involved in serving, singing, praying, greeting, giving, visiting, and doing much of the work prior to the service. They are the minority who do "more than others."

SUMMATION: *What do YE MORE than others* What difference has Christ made in your life and what you do for Him? What distinguishes your behavior from that of your unsaved neighbor or unsaved co-worker?

- Don't say because you go to church, because multitudes of unsaved people go to church.
- Don't say because you read the Bible, because many cults read the Bible (maybe more than you do).
- Don't say because of your prayers, because Muslims faithfully pray three times a day. The question is, *What do YE MORE than others*

If there is nothing different between you and the world... If others do more for inferior causes than you are doing for the eternal cause of Christ, your priorities are wrong.

- in your **prayers**?
- in your **witnessing**?
- in your **Bible Study**?
- in your **sacrificial giving**?

God help us to do more than others for Jesus, who has done so much for us!