

A New Attitude of Mind - Giving Our Maximum to the Lord

by Zac Poonen

True spirituality is about giving our maximum to the Lord out of love, rather than doing the minimum to please Him.

Scripture: Matthew 5:27

Topics: "True Spirituality", "Legalism Vs Love"

Description

Zac Poonen preaches about the difference between religiosity and true spirituality, emphasizing the danger of having a legalistic mindset that focuses on the minimum requirements to please God. He contrasts the attitude of a servant who works for wages with that of a son or a bride who serves out of love and a desire to give their best. Jesus exemplified seeking the maximum rather than the minimum in fulfilling God's commandments, understanding the spirit behind each law.

Transcript

Many religious people are legalistic and are under the law. They think in terms of the minimum necessary in order to please God. This is why they calculate

exactly how much 10% of their income comes to and then offer it reluctantly to God. In the Old Testament, this attitude finally ended up in the Israelites

offering blind sheep and sick bulls as sacrifices to the Lord (Mal. 1:8).

It is possible to have an identical attitude to the New Testament commandments. A sister can think in terms of the minimum necessary in order to keep the

letter of the Word that commands her to be subject to her husband; or the minimum necessary covering required for her head in the meetings - without the

beauty of her hair being totally hidden! Men and women can think in terms of the minimum necessary in order to be 'spiritual' without altogether

giving up everything. "What is the minimum that I have to give up of this world?" is a question that is always in the minds of such people. Such

people can never be spiritual. They can only be religious.

Jesus' attitude was totally different. He never sought to discover what the minimum requirement was, to please His Father. On the contrary, He sought to

find out what the maximum was, so that He could offer everything to the Father. Therefore He sought to find out the spirit behind each commandment. Thus He

knew that it was not enough to merely avoid adultery in the flesh (even though that was the minimum required by the law). He understood that the spirit

behind that commandment was that one should not even lust (covet) in one's heart. Likewise, He saw that anger and murder were similar. And so on. Thus, He

understood the spirit behind each commandment.

An earthly bride who is deeply in love with her bridegroom never thinks of the minimum necessary to please her partner. On the contrary, she thinks of what

the maximum is that she can do. This is the attitude of the bride of Christ too.

It is here that we see the distinction between the servant and the bride. Those under the law can only be servants. The employee works for wages and is

therefore very calculative in his service. He measures his work by the clock. If he works overtime, he expects extra wages. One who is a son (or a wife),

on the other hand, will work for any length of time - not for reward, but out of love. Herein lies the difference between religiosity and spirituality.

The attitude of mind that thinks, "What can I get out of the Lord?", leads to religiosity. On the other hand, the attitude that thinks, "What can the Lord get out of the one earthly life that I have?", will lead to true spirituality. It will then become natural for us to go the

second mile when the minimum requirement is to go just one mile.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/a-new-attitude-of-mind-giving-our-maximum-to-the-lord/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net