

# The Real Deal

*Becoming and Being a True Follower of Christ*

Matt Heard, Senior Pastor

## Part 12: The Courage to Live It Out

Acts 2:14-36

The genuine article. The real deal. What's involved in becoming and being a true follower of Jesus Christ? That is a question we want to begin to answer in this series.

Floating around our culture are many definitions and opinions of what a true Christian is and the resulting adjectives are often less than flattering: Obnoxious. Fanatical. Pious. Intellectually shallow. Religious. Closed-minded. Crutch-holder. Right winged. Simplistic. No fun. Legalistic. Boring. Intolerant. Judgmental. Naive. Out of touch with the real world.

Then you come into religious circles and the definitions might not be as negative but they are often just as confusing: Church attender. Rule-keeper. Bible-owner. Person who prays. Somebody with conviction. Good morals. Nice family person. Somebody who filled out a form at an evangelistic meeting. Or raised a hand. Or walked down an aisle.

So what is a Christian? For the answer, we thought it would be a good idea to turn to Christ Himself. We are looking at His definition of a follower of His by taking a closer look at what has become known as the "Beatitudes" (Matt. 5:3-10).

In our introduction, we looked at the overall context of Christ's teaching in Matthew 5-7, which is known as the "Sermon on the Mount." In these chapters, Jesus is proclaiming the "good news of the Kingdom" (Matt. 4:23). He is explaining what an authentic relationship with God is all about. The Kingdom of God is referring to the "rule" or "reign" of God. To seek after an authentic walk with God is to submit to His rule—His leadership, His provision, His grace, His forgiveness, His power. Therefore you cannot separate becoming and being an authentic follower of Christ's from seeking His Kingdom.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us eight marks of someone who is "blessed," who is approved before God. Eight cumulative characteristics of a Kingdom-seeker.

Then, in verses 13-16, Jesus teaches the "so what"—that such a follower of His will make a difference in the world around him or her. We are not called to isolate ourselves from our surrounding culture. We have been placed in that culture to live and be a people of impact! He uses two analogies to drive home his point: that our influence in our world will be like that of *salt and light*. Today, as we conclude the series, we will be taking a look at Peter, one of Christ's disciples who heard Jesus teach these beatitudes and His exhortation about being salt and light.

As you've already imagined and probably experienced, living as salt and light takes courage. Peter helps us understand where that courage comes from. We will pick up the action a couple of months after Christ's death and resurrection, when Peter is required to live out in Jerusalem what he had heard Jesus teach many months before in the Galilee. In his actions and words before a hostile and skeptical crowd (which contained many of those who had called for Christ's execution less than two months before) we see Peter courageously living out His calling to be salt and light.

**When we are living out our walk with Christ as salt and light—in the midst of our Monday morning realities—we can gain courage from at least four sources:**

1. Being \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

2. Being \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

3. Being \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

4. Being \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

February 19 & 20, 2005

RR: Rockrimmon Community

WH: Woodmen Heights Community

CONTACT ME ABOUT:

Being part of the First Responder Prayer Team.

Helping with Heart-to-Home Ministry  
*Preparing and/or delivering meals to those in need because of illness, hospitalization, births and death.*

Helping with Kidz:  RR  WH

Saturday  6 p.m.

Sunday  8:45 a.m.  11 a.m.

Grade:  1  2  3  4  5

Large Group Teaching  Kidz Worship

Nursery  Preschool  Kindergarten

SIGN ME UP FOR:

Parenting Conference (2/25-26)

Small Group Leader Conference (2/27)

HOSPITALIZATION

I have a family member/loved one in the hospital. Date/Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

I am scheduled to be hospitalized. Date/Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a pastor to visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS/SERVICE COMMENTS/OTHER NOTES

PLEASE INVITE OTHERS TO PRAY ABOUT THIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

**Welcome to Woodmen Valley Chapel!**  
**FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2005**

ROCKRIMMON COMMUNITY  
 WOODMEN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

PLEASE PRINT     MR.    MRS.    MS.    MISS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

THIS IS MY:    1ST VISIT    2ND VISIT    3RD VISIT  
I AM A:    REGULAR ATTENDER    MEMBER  
I AM A GUEST OF \_\_\_\_\_

MY AGE GROUP:   18-26   27-35   36-54   55+  
K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 COLLEGE

I AM:    SINGLE    SINGLE PARENT    MARRIED  
 WIDOWED    SEPARATED    DIVORCED

NAMES OF SPOUSE/CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME BIRTHDATES:

Spouse	First	Last	Birthdate
Child	First	Last	Birthdate
Child	First	Last	Birthdate
Child	First	Last	Birthdate

**I'D LIKE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:**  
 CHILDREN    ELEMENTARY    BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL    HIGH SCHOOL  
 PIERCED (20SOMETHINGS)    SMALL GROUPS  
 MOSAIC (SINGLE ADULTS)    MEN    WOMEN  
 55PLUS    OUTDOOR ADVENTURES (CATALYST)  
 WORSHIP ARTS    VISUAL ARTS  
 PASTORAL CARE    GLOBAL IMPACT  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**MY SPIRITUAL DECISION TODAY:**  
 I PRAYED TO RECEIVE JESUS AS MY PERSONAL SAVIOR.  
 I'M RENEWING MY COMMITMENT TO JESUS.  
 I'D LIKE TO DECLARE MY FAITH BY BEING BAPTIZED.  
 I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO A PASTOR ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_

Key to Building Abbreviations...  
Woodmen Heights, WHC  
Rockrimmon Community Center, RRCC  
Worship Center (lower level), WPC

# Looking Ahead

Be sure to visit our website at  
[woodmenvalley.org](http://woodmenvalley.org) to find out  
what's happening at WVC!

**FIRST-TIME GUEST?**  
Please join us in our Guest Center, located in the upper level of the Worship Center, or the Atrium at Woodmen Heights, for light refreshments and an opportunity to meet pastors and staff. We are ready to answer your questions about Woodmen Valley, as well as provide you with a gift bag including a free tape of today's message.

**PIERCED** ▶ Sundays ▶ 6:30 p.m. ▶ Worship Center  
This week: *Who God Says You Are: Aliens* with J.R. Briggs  
Pierced focuses on intentional fellowship, relevant teaching and creative expressions of worship that targets twentysomethings, but welcomes all ages. Get connected. Contact us at [pierced@woodmenvalley.org](mailto:pierced@woodmenvalley.org) or visit [www.piercedchapel.com](http://www.piercedchapel.com). Childcare provided.

**STUDENT MINISTRIES SERVICE TIMES & LOCATIONS:**  
SouledOut Middle School: RR: Saturday, 6 p.m., RRCC Gym; WHC: Sunday 6 p.m.  
FUSION High School: RR: Sunday, 6 p.m., RRCC Gym; WHC: Sunday, 6 p.m.  
**55PLUS MEETING: Thirsty Thursdays** meets every Thursday morning at 10:30 in the lower level of the Worship Center. Join us!  
**MOSAIC: Ministry Of Single Adults In Community** ▶ Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. ▶ RRCC Gym  
Join us every Thursday for MOSAIC's city-wide service for single adults. Childcare provided.

**Middle School & High School Winter Camp**  
March 11-13, 2005 ▶ Crooked Creek Ranch  
This is the getaway you've been waiting for! Tasty food, cool prizes, killer music, mind-blowing messages, huge tubing hill & more! Register at [www.woodmenyouth.com](http://www.woodmenyouth.com).

**NETWORK™** ▶ Begins Saturday, Feb. 26  
5:30-7:30 p.m. ▶ Rockrimmon Campus  
Network™ is a dynamic four-week program to help you understand who God has designed you to be and how He has equipped you for a place of meaningful service in the church. To sign up or for more info, contact Kim Butler at 388-4980, or [kbutler@woodmenvalley.org](mailto:kbutler@woodmenvalley.org).

**Small Group Leader Conference** ▶ Sunday, Feb. 27  
8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ▶ WPC Room 107  
If you're a Small Group leader or are interested in leading a small group, please plan to attend. Register at [smallgroups@woodmenvalley.org](mailto:smallgroups@woodmenvalley.org). Lunch provided.

**3rd Annual Parenting Conference** ▶ RR Worship Center ▶ Feb. 25 & 26, 2005  
Parenting is a challenging endeavor these days even for well-equipped adults. Join national speakers Jeff & Debby McElroy to gather new ideas and meet others who are striving to raise healthy, well-balanced children. Register online at [woodmenvalley.org](http://woodmenvalley.org), or in the Ministry Centers. Cost: \$10/person. Childcare available for a minimal fee w/pre-registration.

**Still Waters for Her** ▶ Tuesday, March 8 ▶ RR Worship Center ▶ 6:30-8:30 p.m. **NEW TIME**  
Bring a friend and join us for our city-wide monthly gathering of women. Come for worship, Easter-themed food and encouragement from guest speaker Elaine Pakkala. Childcare provided.

**2005 Men's Retreat** ▶ April 1-3 ▶ Guest Speaker Dr. Howard Hendricks  
Men...mark your calendars now and plan to join us at Crooked Creek Ranch in Winter Park. Pick up a registration brochure in the Ministry Centers. Contact Larry Griffith at 388-4982, or [lgriffith@woodmenvalley.org](mailto:lgriffith@woodmenvalley.org) for more info.

**2005 All Singles Retreat** ▶ April 15-17 ▶ Cost: \$125 (before April 1); \$135 (after April 1)  
Single Adults! Comedian/Author Kenn Kington (from Ultimate Comedy Theater), will be our guest speaker. For more info, visit [woodmenvalley.org](http://woodmenvalley.org), or call Debbie at 388-4985.

**Coming Next Weekend Feb. 26 & 27** ▶ Special Guest Speaker Jerry B. Jenkins  
With straight talk and understated humor, Jerry B. Jenkins (author of *Hedges: Loving Your Marriage Enough to Protect It* and best-selling *Left Behind* series) gives a welcome dose of warning to every married couple. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

ROCKRIMMON COMMUNITY: SATURDAY 6 P.M. SUNDAY 8:45 A.M. 11 A.M.  
WOODMEN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY: SATURDAY 6 P.M. SUNDAY 8:45 A.M. 11 A.M.  
**PIERCED:** SUNDAY 6:30 P.M. MOSAIC: THURSDAY 6:30 P.M.  
— Visit our website at [woodmenvalley.org](http://woodmenvalley.org) —  
290 E. WOODMEN ROAD COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80919 719.599.8652

Received	Week of 2/6/05	Year to Date
		\$158,126
	Month of Jan.	Year to Date
<b>Total All Income</b>	\$603,613	\$2,659,247
<b>Total All Expenses</b>	\$677,399	\$2,647,069
	Month of Jan.	Since 5.23.04
<b>LYF Income</b>	\$104,920	\$2,455,778

# W e l c o m e !

February 19 & 20, 2005

Exploring ☪ Experiencing ☪ Expressing God's Grace

the kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit  
those who mourn shall be comforted  
the meek shall inherit the earth  
the merciful shall obtain mercy  
the pure in heart will see GOD  
the peacemakers will be called the sons of God  
the kingdom belongs to those persecuted for righteousness sake

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**Our Vision**  
To launch and strengthen a fleet of Christ-following communities who are compassionately sailing through a turbulent culture toward a deeper amazement of God's grace.