

JANUARY 29 & 30, 2005

The Real Deal

Becoming and Being a True Follower of Christ

Matt Heard, Senior Pastor

Part 9: Going Against the Flow

Matthew 5: 10-12

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. Naïve. 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. Christ begins by calling us to acknowledge our desperation—our spiritual bankruptcy before God. Then, in the second beatitude, He describes the appropriate response to that reality: when we own up to our true spiritual condition—our poverty of spirit—we will mourn it, turning to Him for intervention, for comfort. He continues by teaching that the appropriate posture before Him is to become meek, which doesn't mean "weak" but instead refers to a submission of our potential to His control. We begin to understand our longings in the context of our hunger and thirst for God. We begin to live our relationship with God out loud by becoming "pipes" of the life and authenticity that's being birthed in us. We will do that with a heart that is submitted to Him and focused on Him. We will then walk in the realm of peace—with God and with each other—thereby identifying us as His children.

Today, we come to the eighth beatitude: *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Here Jesus is warning us that following Him isn't easy. It often means swimming upstream. Going against the flow. Experiencing opposition. Opting for the less popular path. Living in the brokenness instead of opting for the mirage of a detour.

As an authentic Christ-follower, I can experience the *joy of hardship* when I am living out the correct answer to three questions:

1. _____ am I _____?

• **Hardship** because...

• **Joy** because...

2. _____ am I _____?

• **Hardship** because...

• **Joy** because...

3. _____ is my _____?

• **Hardship** because...

• **Joy** because...

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

January 29 & 30, 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)

LifeMates (2/15 WH)

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!
JANUARY 29 & 30, 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 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: Living Stones* 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 or visit 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.
Mstyora Mission Trip ▶ **June 1-12, 2005**
Applications accepted through Feb. 5th!
 Apply to be part of a mission team going to the Mstyora Orphanage in Russia. We will work on a minor renovation project in the mornings and provide activities for the children in the afternoon. To apply, download an application at woodmenvalley.org/Ministries/Global_Impact, or contact the Global Impact office at 388-4991.

weekend tithes & offerings		
	Week of 1/23/05	This Year to Date
Received	\$133,729	\$2,198,031
	Mo. of Dec.	Yr. to Date
Total All Income	\$856,931	\$2,061,862
Total All Expenses	\$829,502	\$1,992,237
	Mo. of Dec.	Since 5.23.04
LYF Income	\$446,928	\$2,339,376

CONNECT in a WVC Small Group! ▶ **Sunday, Feb. 6** ▶ **8:45 a.m.**
 Don't do life alone! The next Small Group Connection will be held at the Rockrimmon campus for three consecutive weeks. Register at woodmenvalley.org/Small_Groups.
Still Waters for Her ▶ **Tuesday, Feb. 8** ▶ **7 p.m.** ▶ **Woodmen Heights**
 Bring a friend and join us for our city-wide monthly gathering of women. Come for worship, fun, food and encouragement from guest speaker Tammy Malby. *Childcare available.*
Crown Financial Small Group ▶ **10-Week Study** ▶ **Sign up deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 1**
 Learn how to handle your resources from God's perspective. For info, visit woodmenvalley.org. Click on *Personal Finances*, or call Bev or Gary at 534-9012. Cost: \$55/couple; \$45/person.
Moms In Touch Rally ▶ **Friday, Feb. 11** ▶ **9 a.m.-Noon** ▶ **Pikes Peak Christian Church**
 All MOMS of elementary through college aged kids are invited to a Moms In Touch Int'l Rally! Come worship, be encouraged and inspired to pray for your children with other moms weekly. For more information, call Emily at 635-1438. Leaders luncheon to follow.

LifeMates ▶ **Tuesday, Feb. 15** ▶ **6:30 p.m.** ▶ **Woodmen Heights** ▶ **Cost: \$15/couple**
 Married Couples! Please join us for an evening of fun, light dessert and prizes. Register at woodmenvalley.org/Ministries/Pastoral_Care/Workshops. *Childcare not available.*
Small Group Leader Conference ▶ **Sunday, Feb. 27** ▶ **10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
 If you're a Small Group Leader, or are interested in leading a small group, please plan to attend. Register at smallgroups@woodmenvalley.org. Lunch provided.
Heart to Home Ministry ▶ **Providing and Delivering Meals to Those in Need**
 Be a blessing to those in need because of illness, hospitalization, births or death by volunteering to prepare or deliver meals. Sign up on the tear-off or call Janet at 388-4974.
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.
 Contact Larry Griffith at 388-4982, or lgriffith@woodmenvalley.org for more info.

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: SATURDAY 6:30 P.M. MOSAIC: THURSDAY 6:30 P.M.
 — Visit our website at woodmenvalley.org —
 290 E. WOODMEN ROAD COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80919 719.599.8652

Exploring ☪ Experiencing ☪ Expressing God's Grace

Welcome!



Part 9: Going Against the Flow
Matthew 5:10-12

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January 29 & 30, 2005



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.