

## **SERMON ON THE MOUNT INTRO**

### **THE CHRISTIAN'S DNA**

Matthew 4:23-5:2

Forensic Science is on the rise.

A woman was murdered on Prince Edward Island, Canada.

The case was difficult but her estranged husband was implicated because a snowy white cat hair was found in a jacket near the scene of the crime, and DNA fragments from the hair matched DNA fragments from Snowball, the cat belonging to the husband's parents. *Nature*, 386: 774, 1997.

Every week CSI Miami and their crew sort out the truth in all kinds of crime.

Murders are solved; old crime cases closed, missing persons identified,

How do they do it?

Just by finding a hair, a drop of spit, or splash of blood, a scrap of flesh.

The DNA identifies 13 regions that create a DNA profile

Which is called a DNA fingerprint.

THE DNA identifies the person

And tells who we are.

In the sermon on the Mount,

Jesus identifies the DNA of the Christian.

### **I CALL IT THE DIVINE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES**

Of who we are

What we ought to be

What our natural character and divine nature is all about.

Some days Donna thinks my DNA is a little warped.

The other day she came into the room and stopped.

I was sitting on the floor playing blocks with my 3 yr old granddaughter.

To my defense, Katrina had been there,

These blocks were different.

They didn't have numbers on them.

Or the 28 letters of the alphabet.

Just 16 blocks with of 6 sides

Painted with a different picture.

They were puzzle blocks.

When you arrange them all in the right direction,

They make one of 6 pictures.

Rather hard for a 3 year old.

Rather hard for a 61 year old.

But what Katrina and I discovered.

Is if you get the right colored border in first,

The rest of the picture will follow.

Get the boundaries or perimeter protected,

And the heart of the picture will fall into place.

Sin and our secular society has so loosened or destroyed the boundaries and perimeter of the Christian life

That people don't know what the DNA of the Christian should look like.  
 Its gotten to the point where we don't know what we believe.  
 And we are fast becoming an immoral and spiritually confused church.

A man told his friend that he saw Jesus while shaving.  
 His friend said: What did you do?  
 He said: "I just kept on shaving,"  
 The friend said: "Then it wasn't Jesus."

That is still the problem today  
 when people claim to see Jesus  
 Nothing changes, we are to content, comfortable, and familiar with the secular world.

**The worldly man does not know the things of the spirit.**

**The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. I Corinthians 2:14**

The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus words to his Disciples, (then and now,)  
 Not to the world.

Non-Christians are going to be uncomfortable with these principles.

Jesus is saying-- If you're really going to be my Disciples

You will be bucking the rest of society in every conceivable area.

And you will be a thorn in the flesh to a sinful society,

**Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. I John 2:15**

First of all we look at the

## **I. DYNAMICS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR.**

What is it that moves us to action as human being.

First of all it is the

### **1. Motivational force of the self.**

Self is not bad.

**Matt 19:19 Jesus tells us that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

In God's eyes each of us are important.

**The self is motivated in three areas:**

**Self preservation,**

**Self gratification**

**Self glorification.**

These help us behave like humans should.

**Self-preservation** is learned thru pain.

When you were a child and touched something hot.

You got burned.

The pain was imprinted in your brain--fire burns.

Don't touch that again.

This is a lesson in self-preservation.

**Self-gratification** is the second motivational force.

When you and I were hungry as a child.

We cried.  
 Crying produce mother.  
 Mother produces milk.  
 Milk and mother satisfies our hunger.  
 Self-gratification worked.

**Self-glorification** is the third motivational force.

As a baby you learned quickly that yelling at the top of your voice got attention..  
 Especially at midnight.  
 Throwing everything over your highchair or out of your crib got attention.  
 Mother comes rushing to hold, cuddle, and caress you.  
 You are now the center of the universe.  
 That behavior still works for some of you men at 40.

A first-time father was feeding the baby some strained peas.  
 Naturally, there was green soup everywhere, especially on the child.  
 His wife came in, looked at the infant,  
 then at her husband who was staring into space, and said:  
 "What in the world are you doing?"  
 He replied, "I'm waiting for the first coat to dry, so I can put on another."

Most adults grow up and exercise some self-control.  
 Other wise we end up a self-centered, self pitying, whining egotist.  
 Who always wants his way, complains about everyone else.  
 Looking out for number one.

Thank God that  
**Motivational forces** are not the only equipment God has given us.  
**2. Moral forces** of the soul as well.

AND WE HAVE THREE FACTORS THAT AFFECT OUR **MORALITY**

1. The **conscience** is a built in factor.

God created every person with the Law of God written on their heart.

**Rom 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be know about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ..so that men are without excuse. .**

But some people today seem to have no conscience.  
 They lie, sue, and try to beat the system.

A cigar smoker bought several hundred expensive cigars and then had them insured against fire. After he had smoked them all, he filed a claim that the cigars had been destroyed by fire. The judge ruled that because the insurance company had agreed to insure the cigars against fire, it was legally responsible. They company had to pay the claim, then as the man accepted the money, the company had him arrested for Arson.

Our conscience is one of the **MORAL** guides for our lives.

2. The **community** is also a **MORAL** guide.

When you were growing up you had certain unwritten rules,  
guidelines and boundaries in your home town.

Every adult in my home town of Olivet  
Thought it was their job to help my parents raise me.  
If I did something wrong they told me,  
And worse they told my parents.  
When we caught kids from Olivet stealing our watermelons.  
My dad didn't take them to jail, he took each one home to their parents.  
Try that today and you end up taking the parents to jail.

Only problem is that Community standards vary from place to place.  
Country to country. In Middle East and Far East.

We think we are more civilized in America than the rest of the world  
But are we?

**In a primitive Indian tribe in South America when a young girl reaches puberty,  
And is ready for marriage she climbs a tree to show she is available.**

And since there aren't very many trees she is noticed.  
In case she's missed, she sings, -- I'm available.  
Naturally the men appear from all points  
the law is simple.  
She belongs to the first guy who pulls her down out of that tree.  
If Children are born from the resulting union.  
The tribal law said that the children should be killed.  
And she could have relationship with other men over and over  
Until one man would agree that they would raise the child together.  
Then they would be married  
And from that point she cannot have an affair with any other man.  
If she did the Chief would take a knife called the "adulterer's knife"  
and kill the two married person.

In America young ladies don't climb trees,  
But when they reach teen years of availability  
And they began to dress like it.  
They sing song songs about it.  
I'm available.  
Unwanted children from these unions are done away with as well.  
They don't bury the babies alive as the Indian tribe did,  
They simply abort them.  
When they do marry, 35% of the women, and 50% of the men  
still carry on affairs with persons not their spouses.  
But there is no "Adulterers knife" in our society.  
Because our society condones adultery.  
Which community is more civilized?  
COMMUNITY standards should be a part of our morality.

THE third moral factor should be  
**3. OUR CONVICTIONS are our arena of choices.**

That is where parents come in.  
 Children develop their conviction from the home.  
 They see and imitate what their parents do. But parents today are just too busy.

A Florida church had a monthly family night. What they discovered was new families would come and simply drop off their children and leave. So the next family night was the movie "The Magic of Lassie", They announced it as a film for the whole family, and free puppies will be given to all children not accompanied with parents.

The parents conviction should give them the ability to make the correct choice.  
 And for the Christian our conviction help us choose between what is a valid moral principle and what is a totally amoral principles.

Lets look at the

## **II. THE DIFFICULTIES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR.**

The difficulties come when the forces of **self-preservation, self-gratification, and self-glorification** are unrestrained.

When morality, truth, tradition, family values, the church no longer matters.  
 Add **self-gratification**.

And we have a society where anything goes.

**Since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity... Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

**Romans 1:28-32**

In America everything is legitimate if it gratifies me.  
 Morality and motivation do not matter as long as I am satisfied.

**When movie actor Charles Coburn was a boy in the late 1800s, his father warned him never to go into a burlesque theater or he'd see things there he should not see. Young Charles couldn't resist that temptation, so a few days later he snuck into a burlesque theater. He said: "My father was right, I did see something in there I shouldn't have seen: my father was there."**

When we obey Jesus words in the Sermon on the Mount and  
 Apply the moral standards God has given us to our society.  
 we will alienate the world around us.

In all four Gospel Jesus says:

**All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. Matthew 10:22**

Worldly people do not have the spiritual equipment to discern, discriminate and decide correctly what is true, moral, holy, and just.

Those are the distinctive behaviors of a Christian.

True Christianity demands a standard of behavior  
 above and beyond that which society has decided is normal.

THEN WHAT ARE THE  
**III. DISTINCTIVE OF CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR?**

Jesus highlights four distinctive DNA points of Christian behavior.

**First there's the matter of**

**1. MORALITY**

We Christians do have a standard for living that is above and beyond the world

God speaks from heaven and says:

**I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. John 17:14-15**

The man on the street asks: Where are we going?

The Christian says: We are going God's way.

Because our ethics, morality, behavior are from God.

Not from secular society.

**Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. Romans 8:5**

Christian who live by worlds behavior patterns need to recheck their Christianity.

Our morality must come from above, found in the word of God.

Not in the norms of secular society.

**It's a matter of MORALITY**

**2. MENTALITY**

Of learning from Jesus.

That is what the disciples did.

**Matthew 5:1-2 says seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain; and when he was set, his disciples came unto him; and he opened his mouth and taught them.**

Who are you allowing to shape your mind and teach us what is true, honorable and holy?

The church turns too often has turned to secular world to teach us how to live.

But Gods says were to learn from his word and from the Holy Spirit.

That is able to train us up in righteous living.

Satan tried to teach Jesus from the world's point of view through Peter.

Jesus turned to Peter and said:

**"Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23**

We need to say that to some of our Seminary and college professor,

Some well meaning politicians and preachers.

And say to them that is hogwash.

It is of this world and not of God.

We do not teach by experimentation

but Exposition of God's word that gives God glory.

**JEREMIAH 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

### **3. THE THIRD DISTINCTIVE IS MASTERY**

Christians are not on an ego trip but on a submission trip.

If you want to serve God then submit to him

Our self, our temptation and failures.

Our broken human conditions and God will lift us up.

Jesus simply said: **If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. Luke 9:23-24**

We are not created to glorify Man's humanity but Gods' divinity.

By our conviction, conscience and control of my view of society.

And last, we need a:

### **4. MINORITY ATTITUDE.**

We need an attitude that believes ONE PERSON with God can change the world.

We can make a difference, to change, feed, improve, and convert our society.

**I tell you the truth; anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12**

James Moore tells when he was a sophomore about Eddie a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, had dropped a pass in the end zone which cost his team the football game. In the locker room all the players were crucifying Eddie behind his back with hard, angry word. "Eddie cost us the game its his fault. Anybody could have caught that ball. He's terrible; the coach should kick him off the team." It all went on and on until George, a senior, one of the most highly respected players on the team said: "You know, I have way too many faults of my own to be critical of anybody else. And beside, I imagine right about now that Eddie feels worse than any of us." Moore said: George's words promptly ended the cruel bashing session. It also revealed why George was one of the most highly respected players on the team.

One young man with courage changed the locker room conversation.

What commitments are you willing to make?

What changes will you make, before your spouse and family? Fellow students?

To show things are going to be different in your life.

My prayer for you is that the Sermon on the Mount

Will build in each of you, the DIVINE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES

Of a strong Christian Character and Spiritual formation.