

8/15/21

Sermon – Kitchen Sink Living

Scripture *MT 18:1-22*

Main Message – Why don't we just overcomplicate everything.

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Remember the main point is the simplicity that is in Christ. We've talked about procrastination, and we've seen the non-value component of worry. Human beings are able to complicate just about everything, both to ourselves and others. We allow things to complicate our lives because we think it is the right thing to do. There is only one place that I can find from scripture that says it may be ok to complicate matters... but that is a topic for next week... maybe.

No, this week I call kitchen sink living. Everything but the kitchen sink... nope. We are including that as well. We will know we are living this lifestyle because of our conscience. We will realize that our life is being burdened and we can feel overwhelmed. We won't have the energy to do the things we should and our energy gets spent on places that we don't want to do but feel we must. Sometimes we can get stuck in the past with no passion for today. Other times we try to cut corners and call ourselves good, knowing that it really isn't the right way. Who wouldn't want to have all their money worries go away by a simple, time tested way of winning the lottery vs just working? That is called cheating life. It's not successful life. Another way of cheating life is focusing on our own needs exclusively. Another way is focusing on other's needs exclusively. There are those who hold onto bitterness, and others regret. We don't forgive because we believe we own the bank on justice, though we would never judge ourselves that harshly. Some avoid the brutality of honesty which saps our psyche and our strength. Remember the truth is more likely to hurt but living a lie leads to destruction and pain. Sometimes we live in a life of comparing ourselves to others or we compare others against standards we have no right to do. We can sometimes allow others to make priorities for us and we don't challenge them, which then frustrates us, which then makes us angry, which makes us resentful, which means the smile on our face is a lie. Then later we complain about it. We like it when we can say, "No good deed goes unpunished." And when we are done complaining, the situation we are complaining about isn't fixed, resolved, and when it happens again, we are back to complaining. And within all these things as do many of us we take one small step forward and two steps backward. We get involved in drama and some are passionate about inflating the drama of their own existence. This is one way folks try to control the life around them – by having problems and the best ones have no fix so they can be enhanced and validated. Humans are control freaks these days. For those who are not control freaks, others are incredibly passive and take no responsibility for anything. This complicates life because they are blown about by every whim. Are we happily focused on issues in the world, of which today there are plenty, but at the same time no obvious solution that we can institute is available? Does that help us live a life for Christ? And the best one of all, is that we do some combination of all of these things together and this isn't even a complete list. After all I needed to have something to talk about next week.

I think, therefore I do or have done all of these things at one time or another.

When I was reading this mishmash of topics, did you hear them all, or did you get stuck on one of them I read. That might be the one for you to start working on.

As a reminder, let me read **Mathew 18:1-5**

By the way, trying to uncomplicate life is going to make it more complicated. No amount of **try** will fix this. Try means that failure is acceptable. So now let me continue on with Mathew with the rest of the Story (Paul Harvey Reference)

Read Mathew 18:6-22

Reading this section through the filter of uncomplicating life tells us how to live and never how to try living. When I hear myself saying, I'll try, I immediately cringe inwardly. I know I must overcome the world through my doing and not trying and surround myself with those who also do and do not try.

Self-awareness through the lens of scripture is a gift to be used by us all to uncomplicate our life and live for Christ.