

RADICAL



The Primary Reward

Matthew 7:15-23; Revelation 21:3

Big Idea for the Series: There's a subtle, creepy, sly enemy of *authentic* Christian living that sneaks into our life and wreaks havoc. If you've ever wondered if there's more to Christianity than you're experiencing, you're right. In *Radical*, we'll talk about what may be lacking and how to get it in your life.

The Bottom Line for this message: The primary reward of the Gospel is God Himself.

Review:

What if there was no sound system?

... no band

... no guitar

... no entertainment

... no cushioned chairs. ... no chairs at all

... no heat

... no air conditioning

... no building

What if there was nothing but the people of God and the Word of God?

Last week, we began a new series *Radical*, and we asked a question: Is Jesus *really* worth abandoning everything for?

And our challenge was to throw off everything that hinders you from following Jesus.

Introduction:

Today, we are discussing the reward of throwing off everything to follow Jesus.

To begin, I want to start with the Gospel/Good News of Jesus.

Struggle:

The struggle comes from our watered-down version of faith. To believe/trust Jesus is to follow Jesus, and to follow Jesus is to obey Jesus.

If you say you believe Jesus (or have faith in Jesus) but you do not follow/obey Him, do you have saving faith? (Lip service only!)

Truth:

Let's review the words of Jesus as recorded by Matthew, an Apostle, in Matthew 7:15-23.

The bottom line is anyone can say, “Lord, Lord!” and not be a true follower of Christ.

Only those who bear good fruit. Only those who do the will of God in heaven will enter the Kingdom of God. Do not deceive yourselves. **That’s radical!**

To return to our question today, what is our reward for throwing off everything to *truly* follow Jesus?

Not going to Hell?

Eternal Life?

Heaven?

Streets of Gold?

Mansion?

Seeing our loved ones again?

Read: Revelation 21:3

The primary reward of the Gospel is God Himself.

Application:

Why are you trusting Jesus? If it is for anything other than God Himself, what if suddenly it was all stripped away? Would you fall away too?

God is our reward! Repent of any other reason for following Jesus.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Matthew 7:21
- Consider why you’re following Jesus.
- Meditate on the fact that God Himself is your reward.