

Meeker Christian Church
Pastor Jim Pelley
2-9-25
"WELL DONE"

I notice with great admiration at the end of wrestling matches, basketball games and other sporting events our kids are being taught sportsmanship to shake hands with their competitors. To the parents, participants and coaches involved I have a Biblical message: Matthew 25:23 *23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'* Obedience, = love= joy from last week's message is taught yet again in this passage... Being a good sport and respecting others is obedience of God's instructions throughout the Bible in a physical practical way. Results: the end of the same verse: "Enter into the joy of your lord." The Joy of the Lord is all around and ever present as we learn and accommodate it's evidence as our faith, and obedience expand through practice.

Our society's structure often deliberately suppresses praise for the righteously obedient, and prefers criticism and slander. That stands in stark contrast to the personal testimony of the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:16-18 *16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

God the Father set the example for us in His declaration regarding Jesus:

The opening Matthew verse is part of the well-known passage that indicates the propriety of expressing pleasure in others: Matthew 25:14 - 23. *14 for the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord,*

you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'
The master in this parable is GOD and the servants are us: "

That parable teaches us that every single Christian is given gifts to use for kingdom service. Spiritual gifts and being a Christian are synonymous! The gifts GOD has bestowed upon us are to be used for HIS purpose and glory. And when we do so we will receive approval from Him. .. When a person seeks and accepts Jesus as Lord of their life and follows through with baptism, The Kingdom Of Heaven begins. The Kingdom of Heaven represents both a present reality and a future hope, encompassing the reign of God over the hearts of believers and the ultimate establishment of His rule over all creation by the spiritual gifts of HIS adherents.. When you come up out of the waters of Christian baptism you become a staff member on God's gospel team. Do not look for the reasons you do not think you qualify - look for the reasons that you do qualify and are called by God.

Matthew 18:1-5 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. - We were listening to Dr. Jeremiah this week and he said his favorite definition of humility is not to think less of yourself, just think of yourself less!!! 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

This message is an effort to tell you "WELL DONE," and to acknowledge a few areas of the kingdom of heaven progress in our fellowship:

I. Well done MCC Family in making families and children a higher priority for our ministry. We all agree tomorrow's church is today's children and they are our responsibility. Psalm 127:3 *Behold children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.*

- A. Children are a reward from GOD...Please be praying for all of us to expand and be specific with our prayers, planing, and speaking to and encouraging our youth and children
- B. Individuals or a society who are too busy to spend time with their children are selfish and have misplaced priorities which will assure eventual problems. A song of bygone years about a child pleading with daddy to talk with and play with him -

daddy too busy. It closes with the daddy pleading with the same child as a teenager to talk with him - son too busy...

So I say to those of you who are sacrificing personal rights, and private pleasure are to be commended for your humility - for your reward will be great later in life and for all eternity. WELL DONE.

We simply must be committed to the youth and children of the community...and our extended families

II. WELL DONE MCC Family in giving:

Building improvements, missions, Camp Christian, Christmas boxes, building insurance, salaries, benevolence, on and on. GOD has provided through your faithful stewardship and the labor, prayers and support of many others a fine facility to be used to its maximum for spreading the GOSPEL message of love. And provision for Holy Spirit revelation for kingdom service ministry.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

III. WELL DONE MCC Family in the area of love and forgiveness.

In an era in our world when hate, violence, suspicion, moral impurity, greed, untruth, and revenge dominates our lives -- your love and forgiveness is exemplary. I recently had a person share a testimony of forgiveness the Lord was leading them through. Thank you Jesus for that example of YOUR very active Holy Spirit in the lives of Heaven seeking humble servants.... When churches are being persecuted and closing, when relationships are under attack and when anti-biblical principles are multiplying in daily life, your modeling of Christianity is absolutely Heaven Bound critical... WELL DONE brothers and sisters - you are not going unnoticed by the Heavenly Father.

Luke 6:35,36 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

A. Love is infinitely more powerful than hate...

B. Serving is more joyful than being served... Acts 20:35 *"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remembers the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

WELL DONE Church family

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

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Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your [reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

WELL DONE Church Family

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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1 Peter 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

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