

## **Briefing Document: Matthew Lesson 69-Our Attitude Behind Our Actions**

**Sunday AM-May 31, 2026**

### Executive Summary

This document summarizes the teachings and testimonies shared during the "Matthew Lesson 69" service. The central theme focuses on the internal state of a believer, emphasizing that God prioritizes a person's heart and motives over their outward actions. Key highlights include the successful conclusion of Vacation Bible School (VBS), personal testimonies regarding the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and a deep examination of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. The primary takeaway is that true righteousness requires a shift from following external traditions to pursuing internal purity and holiness through Christ.

### Ministry Updates and Community Success

The service opened with a celebration of the recent Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. The leadership noted that the event was a "resounding success" characterized by high energy and consistent attendance.

### Vacation Bible School (VBS) Statistics

<b>Category</b>	<b>Data Point</b>
<b>Daily Attendance</b>	Approximately 70 children
<b>Student Workers</b>	12 daily
<b>Adult Workers</b>	Approximately 25
<b>Spiritual Impact</b>	Over half of the children responded to calls for salvation

The success of the program was attributed to significant preparation and effort. Leadership emphasized that the consistent attendance and enthusiasm of the children were indicators of a healthy and impactful week.

### Personal Testimonies of Faith

Two members of the congregation shared how the Holy Spirit has actively worked in their lives, focusing on themes of divine guidance and heart transformation.

#### The Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Mike Steele shared a testimony spanning from his childhood in 1947 to his recent relocation to Benson.

- **Early Conversion:** At age 10, Steele experienced the filling of the Holy Spirit during an altar call. He described a sensation where his "feet never touched the ground" as he walked to the front of the church. This aligns with *Acts 2:38*: "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus*

*Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

- **Divine Navigation:** After traveling through several Western states in an RV, Steele and his wife felt led to Benson, Arizona, despite having never visited. Upon attending New Life, they heard the pastor share the exact same "feet never touched the ground" experience, which confirmed they were in the place God intended.

### The Importance of Motives

Valinda shared her journey of moving away from a performance-based faith rooted in pride and the desire for approval.

- **Internal vs. External:** She noted that while she could perform good works outwardly, her heart often harbored resentment or a desire for recognition.
- **Heart Transformation:** Her testimony emphasized that even small acts become worship when the heart is humble and thankful. She cited several scriptures to support this:
  - *For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).*
  - *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men (Colossians 3:23).*
  - *...but have not love, I am nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2).*

### Sermon Analysis: Attitude vs. Action

The core teaching, "Our Attitude Behind Our Actions," is the 69th lesson in a series on the book of Matthew, specifically focusing on the Sermon on the Mount.

### Restoring the Purity of the Law

The lesson explains that Jesus did not come to abolish the Law of Moses. Instead, He came to "strip the rabbinic traditions off the law" to expose its original intent. The religious leaders of the time had lowered the standards of the Law to make them easier to follow. By doing so, they could appear righteous on the outside while their hearts remained full of "evil things" like hate and lust.

### The Standard of Holiness

The document outlines that the standard for a child of God's kingdom is not merely "doing your best," but perfection and holiness.

- **Internal Guilt:** Jesus taught that thoughts are as important as deeds. For example, even if a person does not commit a physical act of sin, thinking about it renders them guilty in the eyes of God.

- **The Paradigm of Convenience:** Christians often view their lives through a **paradigm**<sup>[^1]</sup> that favors their strengths while ignoring their sins. However, God is an "examiner of the heart" who judges evil desires as strictly as evil actions.

The Judgment of Motives

Using the writings of Paul in *1 Corinthians 4*, the lesson argues that human evaluation—whether from others or oneself—is ultimately immaterial.

- **God as Expert:** God is the only expert capable of understanding the secrets and motives of the heart.
- **The Timing of Judgment:** Believers are encouraged not to judge others or themselves prematurely. As stated in *1 Corinthians 4:5: Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.*

Conclusion

The service concluded with a call to prioritize the "internals" over "externals." The leadership emphasized that salvation is a free gift of eternal life that requires accepting Christ's righteousness in exchange for human sin. The congregation was encouraged to leave their burdens at the altar and focus on a personal, heart-centered relationship with God.

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Greek Terminology Guide

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Paradigm	par-uh-dahym	A mental framework or "window" through which a person views their life and the environment around them. <sup>[^1]</sup>

<sup>[^1]</sup>: Derived from the Greek *paradeigma*, meaning a pattern or model. In the context of the source, it refers to the subjective way individuals evaluate their own holiness.