

Study Guide: (Matthew Lesson 69) - Our Attitude Behind Our Actions

Sunday AM-May 31, 2026

This study guide examines the teachings presented in Matthew Lesson 69, focusing on the Sermon on the Mount and the internal motivations that drive human behavior. The source context explores how **Jesus Christ** emphasizes the condition of the heart over outward religious appearances. Through personal testimonies and biblical analysis, this document outlines the necessity of aligning one's internal attitudes with the holy standards of **God**.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the transcript, why was the recent Vacation Bible School (VBS) considered a resounding success by the church leadership?
 2. What specific physical sensation did Mike Steele describe experiencing during his salvation moment in 1957?
 3. How did the Holy Spirit play a role in Mike and Kathy Steele's decision to join the New Life church in Benson?
 4. What did Linda learn about the "why" behind her actions through the ministry of the church?
 5. According to the sermon, what was the primary reason **Jesus Christ** came to address the rabbinic traditions regarding the law?
 6. How does the pastor define a "paradigm," and how do Christians sometimes use paradigms to make themselves comfortable?
 7. In what way did the Pharisees "lower the standard" of **God's** law to accommodate their own abilities?
 8. Explain the metaphor of the "whitewashed tomb" that **Jesus Christ** used to describe the religious leaders of **His** time.
 9. Why does the Apostle Paul state in 1 Corinthians 4 that human judgment is a "very small thing" to him?
 10. What is the difference between the "Burden Box" and the new "Count Your Blessings Jar" introduced in the service?
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Answer Key

1. The VBS was successful because of the high energy in the sanctuary, consistent daily attendance, and the fact that over half of the children responded to the calls for salvation. The leadership also noted that the extensive preparation and artistry made a visible difference that the children noticed.
2. Mike Steele described a feeling welling up inside of him and completely filling his body. He stated that as he walked down the aisle to the pastor, he never felt his feet touch the ground because the Holy Spirit carried him.
3. After praying for guidance on where to relocate, the Steeles felt led to Benson despite never having been there. When Mike heard Pastor Steve share the exact same "feet not touching the ground" experience during a sermon, Mike believed the Holy Spirit was confirming that this was where they were meant to be.
4. Linda realized that **God** cares not only about what she does but also about her motives. She learned that good works can be poisoned by hidden pride, bitterness, or a desire for approval if the heart is not humble and loving.
5. **Jesus Christ** did not come to set aside the law but to strip away rabbinic traditions to expose its purity. **He** wanted to lift the law back to its original, higher standard, focusing on internal holiness rather than just external compliance.
6. A paradigm is described as the window or environment through which a person views their life. Christians may use a convenient paradigm by focusing on areas where they are holy while ignoring sinful areas, allowing them to feel comfortable instead of striving for perfection.
7. The Pharisees lowered the standard by focusing entirely on external actions, which allowed them to justify themselves as righteous. By ignoring the importance of thoughts and desires, they could feel self-righteous while their hearts remained full of evil things like hate and lust.
8. The metaphor describes something that looks clean, white, and pure on the outside but is full of death and "dead man's bones" on the inside. **Jesus Christ** used this to show that the religious leaders appeared righteous to men but were spiritually dead and filthy in their hearts.
9. Paul believed that neither human evaluation nor his own self-evaluation was the final authority. He recognized that only the **Lord** is the expert who knows the secrets and motives of the heart, making human opinions immaterial.
10. The "Burden Box" is a place where people can anonymously place their struggles and worries for **God** to handle. The "Count Your Blessings Jar" uses pebbles to represent specific ways **God** has blessed the congregants, shifting the focus to gratitude.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the relationship between internal motives and external actions as presented in the sermon. How does the "purity of the law" challenge the idea that being "good" is only about following rules?
2. Compare and contrast the religious standards of the Pharisees with the standard of holiness called for by **Jesus Christ**. Use the concept of "whitewashed tombs" to support your argument.
3. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer based on the testimony of Mike Steele and the scripture from Acts 2:38. How does the Holy Spirit provide guidance and confirmation?
4. Reflect on the Apostle Paul's struggle in Romans 7 as mentioned in the sermon. How does this internal conflict between the spirit and the flesh relate to the pastor's call for "continual work" toward holiness?
5. Evaluate the importance of humility and the rejection of "stinking thinking" in the Christian walk. How does the example of the tax collector and the Pharisee illustrate the proper attitude for worship?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Atonement	The act of Jesus Christ offering His righteousness in exchange for human sin, often referred to as the "greatest deal in history."
Burden Box	A physical box in the church where believers place written concerns or "burdens," symbolic of giving those worries to God .
Carnality	A state of being focused on worldly or fleshly desires rather than spiritual purity; often associated with the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.
Communion	Also called the Lord's Supper; a practice of eating bread and drinking from the cup to remember the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ .
Discourse	A formal and long speech or sermon; the book of Matthew is noted for containing five major discourses.
Holiness	The state of being set apart for God ; described as the high standard of perfection that believers are called to pursue daily.
Motive	The underlying reason or "why" behind an action; the specific thing God judges when evaluating a person's heart.

Promotion Sunday	A specific day in the church calendar when children move up to the next grade level in Sunday School or Children's Church.
Rabbinic Traditions	The additional rules and interpretations added to the law of God by religious leaders over time, which Jesus Christ sought to remove.
Self-Righteousness	The false belief that one is morally superior or pure based on outward actions, often used to justify a lack of internal change.
VBS	Vacation Bible School; a high-energy summer program for children focused on teaching scripture and encouraging salvation.

Greek Terminology Guide

The following terms used in this study guide or mentioned in the source context have roots in the Greek language.

Greek-Derived Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Discourse [¹]	<i>dis-kors</i>	Derived from <i>diérchomai</i> ; used here to refer to the formal sermons or teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew.
Paradigm [²]	<i>par-uh-dahym</i>	Derived from <i>paradeigma</i> ; the mental "window" or framework through which an individual perceives and interprets their life.

[¹]: This term is used by the pastor to categorize the five major teaching blocks in the book of Matthew. [²]: The pastor uses this word to explain how Christians often view their own righteousness through a lens that is convenient for them.