

**Project Hear
Religious Conversion
02/08/20
Newport News Campus**

Opening

-Faith Promise...

-Open Door Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship

-Project Hear

- Religious Conversion
- Next week Vanessa...
- 2/22 Pastor Jeff Mingee

Recap

-I want the reflex of my heart to be one of obedience to God!

-rebellious - reluctant - reflexive

-(show the Shema diagram) (talk about this being a heart renovation)

*-If we want the reflex of our hearts to be one of obedience to God, a return to Shema, we must do the hard work that transforms it from being **desperately wicked to delightfully worshipful**...and it's going to take longer, cost more, and will be harder than we think!!!!*

Religious Conversion

-Religious Conversion begins by making a vow of devotion to Jesus and confessing Jesus' right to have authority over every aspect of my life.

-(Praxis booklet)

-John 1:12

-John 3:1-5

-(my conversation with a friend...body, soul, and spirit)

-Romans 10:9-10

-But I want to spend the majority of our time tonight talking about what a person's life SHOULD look like AFTER a religious conversion...because too many people make a "religious decision" but Jesus calls us to a Religious Conversion!!!!"

The Sermon on the Mount

-Jesus' most famous sermon and spans three chapters in the Gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7. Let me give you a bit of an outline...

- **Verses 5:1-19 virtues, the fruit of The Spirit! (talk about Praxis)**
- **Read Matthew 5:20 (this is a hinge verse...)**
- **Verses 5:21-47 list examples of sin that violate virtue**
- **Read Matthew 5:48 (this is a closing verse...)**

- **Read Matthew 6:1 (another hinge verse...)**
- **Verses 6:2-18 are Pathways that build virtues**
- **Verses 6:19-34 live with an eternal point of view**

- **Chapter 7 is recap...**
- **Verses 7:1-6 a reminder it's about who you are**
- **Verses 7:7-12 trust God and ask for help**
- **Verses 7:13-14 yes it's hard work**
- **Verses 7:15-23 ...but don't pretend or fake it**
- **Verse 7:24-29 and remember one thing, Shema!**

Chapter 5 – virtues lead us away from sin

-There are six times Jesus says, "**You have heard** or It was said..."

- **Murder**
- **Adultery**
- **Divorce**
- **Deceit**
- **Revenge**
- **Hate**

-Notice that Jesus consistently says "if..." in addressing these sins, meaning He understands that not everyone will do them...but if you do...

-You will notice also that Jesus here is not just talking about why these things are wrong but also **how we are to treat people who have sinned.**

- Mosaic Law emphasizes what people have done - society
- Jesus emphasizes first who we are, virtue! -The Church

-Jesus is teaching us about life on the other side of rebirth!

- The Holy Spirit is now present to influence our will!
- Virtues are now present to influence our will!
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 (both committing and responding)

Chapter 6 – virtues lead us toward Pathways

-Matthew 6:1

-He leaves behind the word “if” and now starts using the word “when”!!!!

-He gives us three of the 12 Pathways...because this is how we work with the Holy Spirit to cultivate virtue in our lives!

- **Generosity (“When you give...”)**
- **Prayer (“When you pray...”)**
- **Fasting (“Whenever you fast...”)**

-(tell the story of your first fast...)

-Jesus is teaching us about life on the other side of rebirth!

- Stir up your spiritual appetites!
- They fuel the growth of virtues!
- Matthew 5:6 (it’s in the middle for a reason!)

Shema

-(show the Shema diagram) (talk about this being a heart renovation)

-everything starts with the Religious Conversion because without the help of the Holy Spirit, none of the rest will be fully effectual through human effort alone.

Band

-Matthew 7:7-12 **(show verse 11)**

- Are you struggling with temptation of some sort?
- Are you struggling with your response to someone who has sinned?
- Are there some Pathways, some spiritual disciplines you know you need to begin?
- Are there some virtues that you know you lack?
- Do you need to make a vow of devotion to Jesus...

Close

-Matthew 3:8, "...produce fruit in keeping with repentance..."