

## Grace, Mercy, Righteousness, Holiness, Love thy Neighbour

Have a read of **Matthew 12v7; Matthew 23v23**. Recently we had a real good discussion of tithing on the internet Forum, then I got to thinking and got myself a headache! Many people say or ask today, "How come we don't see miracles like overseas" well I think the above scriptures pretty well cover it. I have been a Christian for 25 years, a Pastor for 6, a Chaplain for about 4, and so on, one thing I have noticed that is different today from when I first got saved is that people lack, mercy, Righteousness, Holiness and so on, it is very rarely even preached about in churches. If it is, it is mostly watered down.

God is a Righteous and Holy God, and even the Old Testament says be Holy for I am Holy, I think maybe sometimes we go to church on Sunday and think we have committed out Christian "duty". Our Christian walk needs to be in line with what God wants for us 7 days a week, I love the beatitudes found in **Matthew 5, 6, 7**, they are great, if we could read them and line our life up with them we would be doing pretty good I reckon, but who even knows what is in those chapters? Have a read of them, I learn something new every time I read them. I have seen some "God Billboards" on the net the same as some billboards you might see outside a church somewhere that has some sort of statement on them, aren't they great! I have some quotes from some of them, so I will throw them on the next page, enjoy!!

Whatever your lot in life, build something on it. - God  
Alone you can't. Together we can. - God  
They're commandments, not suggestions. - God  
I'm listening. -God  
I'm the only one who really knows what time it is. - God  
Let's Talk. - God  
C'mon over and bring the kids. - God  
My way is the highway. - God  
Have you read my #1 best-seller? (There will be a test.)- God  
That 'Love Thy Neighbor' thing... I meant that.- God  
What part of 'Thou Shalt Not...' didn't you understand?- God  
Loved the wedding! Invite me to the marriage.- God  
Keep using my name in vain, I'll make rush hour longer.- God

What is Righteousness, Holiness, Grace, Mercy, Love thy Neighbour? simply putting it, it is the Christian walk. We have plenty of slogans around which have become financial cliché's like "**WWJD**" What would Jesus Do? "**FROG**" Fully rely on God, and many others, ya see kids or teens wearing them, they are the latest "Church fad" or in thing, I have had a real struggle within myself over the last couple of months, I know I am not living right as God would have me to, and yet I know I have also grown in areas that God would want me too as well. I done a wedding just a week ago, it was one that I was dreading for the passed couple of months with an hour long ceremony and I just didn't know what to expect.

So the day comes and I head off to the wedding rather early to help out, on the way there, I basically cry out "God help me with this wedding". The ceremony was excellent to say the least, everything the whole afternoon was just great, now I don't normally stay at weddings as I feel like a fish out of water as I know nobody, but I was waiting for my final payment of fee for the wedding and got talking to some people, I got paid, and then decided to stay anyway, I had a ball! It turned out there were a few bikers there that knew me, and everyone just wanted to be my friend as I had conducted the wedding so well, I got 2 more weddings and 2 Child naming ceremonies throughout the night, why, because I asked God to help me out!

I sat there watching the pig on the spit spinning round, next thing this bloke is spilling his whole life to me, he started with hey you are a Christian aren't you, I said yes of course and chatted with him for maybe an hour, soon another had come to me, then some ladies, I had totally lost count how many people I ministered to that night, I know they had 250 guests, so yeah..... I had not told anyone I was a Christian or anything, I was wearing a suit, they knew me as a marriage celebrant only, and yet they kept coming throughout the night.

This was a real struggle for me, I could not figure out why because I knew I had issues to deal with, by the end of the night I was totally knackered, worn out, drained and tired and I headed home about midnight. What did they see in me? I don't think they saw anything in me, all I did was gave a friendly smile, a hello and I think they somehow saw God's light in me, his righteousness, his mercy, grace, why? Because I took the time to listen, to accept them regardless of them being stoned or drunk, I gave them the time of day and the love of God, I didn't intend it, God made it happen, but it showed me, that we must be like this daily, willing to give someone the Love of God, not pull them down, just love them!