

NORTH POINT MINISTRIES INC. ATLANTA, GEORGIA

TALK OUTLINE

SERIES TITLE: More than a Night

TALK TITLE: It's a lifestyle

INSIDEOUT STUDENTS

WEEK OF SERIES: Week 1 of 3

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:13,23-28 NIV

BOTTOM LINE:



CONNECTION

Do y'all know what a pet peeve is? It's like something that really annoys you every time it happens. Like it really gets under your skin? Do you have any pet peeves? I mean What's something that really ticks you off??? Something that really just irks you?!?!

- tell a neighbor

I've got some pet peeves...

- being late (hate being late, gives me anxiety, I like to be 30mins early to everything and when I'm not, I'm stressed)
- when people don't use their blinker
- when someone drives slow in the fast lane
- one uppers / always got a better story than you
- squeaky mechanical pencils (**AHHHHHHH**)

You've probably got 1 or 2 as well. The truth is, we've all got pet peeves, stuff that irritates us, stuff that really gets on our nerves and ticks us off.

- The reason I mention this is because tonight I wanna talk about one of Jesus' biggest pet peeves.

TENSION

Did you know Jesus had stuff that ticked him off? Did you know that Jesus got mad? Some people are surprised to learn that Jesus got mad, but he definitely did. If you read any of the Gospels you'll see on more than one occasion he gets fired up. (not like cussing people out and flipping people off mad, He didn't sin in his anger, but he still got ticked off, Hello righteous anger)

- there are a number of things that irritated Jesus...He got mad when people knew the right thing to do but wouldn't do it. He got mad when people took advantage of other people. He got mad at double standards. He got mad when people did harm to other people. And another thing that really got Jesus blood boiling was when people were FAKE!

Doesn't that bother you too?

You ever met any fake people?

- someone who says one thing but does another
- someone who acts one way **here** but another way **there**
- someone who lies to try and fit in or be cool

UGHHH fake is the worst. It's like the new F-word in our culture. (most of you would rather someone say F**k you than call you fake) And none of wants to associate with fake people, do we?

Fake people can be really frustrating, right?

For Jesus fake was one of the things that frustrated him more than anything else.

in fact look at how heated he gets about it...

- in the gospel of Matthew, written by Jesus' good friend who actually spent time with Jesus. Towards the end of Jesus' life he's being grilled and questioned by these religious

people that are just trying to get him to say something wrong so they can discredit him or arrest him, and Jesus gets so fed up he finally turns to them and here's what he says...

TRUTH

Read Matthew 23:13

- you make it hard for people to connect with God but you tell them they need to connect with God.

Read Matthew 23:23-24

- you follow all the "rules" but you don't treat people well which is the most important thing to God. You aren't really practicing what you preach! THAT'S FAKE!

Read Matthew 23:25-28

You look good on the outside but inside you ain't right on the inside!

Jesus wasn't playing around. I told you, nothing frustrated Jesus like FAKE.

(*note: Jesus still loved these people, in fact these were HIS people. These were Gods people. These were people he came to save. But he was frustrated with their fakeness!)

It's a good thing Christians aren't like that anymore right?

- I mean it's a good thing we don't hold people to higher standards than we hold ourselves to right?
- It's a good thing we don't come here and act like we love God and then leave here and treat people poorly, right?
- It's a good thing we don't come here and clean act up but then leave here and live however we want.
- It's a good thing we don't come here and put on a front like everything is fine all the while we've really got some junk to deal with, isn't it?

I'm obviously being a little sarcastic, the truth is, we all struggle with FAKE at some level or another. Maybe we aren't fake in the exact same ways the Pharisees were but we're more similar than we care to admit.

For many of us it simply boils down to this, we make Christianity about one night a week where we'll act the part, talk the part and look the part but then the rest of the days we'll just do whatever we want.

For many of us, following Jesus is just about a night, or a church service. Christianity is something we do once per week but if we're honest, it doesn't really affect how we live or treat people. And according to Jesus, that's FAKE and it drove him nuts. He didn't want to simply change one night a week, he wanted to affect our entire lives!

APPLICATION

So real quick, let me ask, and don't answer out loud. what is it about being fake that made Jesus so frustrated?

Why did Jesus hate FAKE so much???

- Fake living can't make a real difference.
- Fake living won't produce real growth
- Fake living does real harm
- Fake living impedes real healing

Jesus hated Fake BECAUSE...

BEING FAKE DOES REAL HARM

1 - hurts our relationship with God

- Maybe you've never hear this before but God wants a real honest relationship with us
- He's not interested in religion, behavior modification and all that jazz, he wants relationship with us instead

-- he loves who we are, not who we should be.

-- when we are fake we put up a wall between us and God. When we act like we've got it all together instead of coming openly and honestly, we deny our need for God and miss out on the grace and healing he wants to bring into our lives.

2 - hurts our relationship with others

-- when we are fake with our friends and our small group, we put a wall up between them and us.

-- we deny people the chance to really know us or for us to really know them

-- we miss out on the benefits of community

-- we miss out on the opportunity to help someone else. (Your honesty could be the catalyst for someone else to open up and be real. There is so much power in the words "me too")

3 - hurts how other people view God

-- finally the other real damage that being fake can have is that it can hurt how other people view God.

-- it's hard for people to believe God is real when Christians are acting fake!

-- one of my struggles in high school (Christians who sang loud on Sunday but fired up the loud on Saturday. Christians who said God changed their life but they still did everything I was doing. Talked the same, did the same things I was doing.) made me wonder if it was all a bunch of bull?

-- as Christians we should live lives that demand an explanation. There should be noticeable differences in how we live, how we treat people, how we spend our time, how we spend our money, etc.

-- doesn't mean we never mess up, definitely doesn't mean we're perfect, we should own our sins and struggles, but people should see progress, right?

Being fake does real harm!

Yall, **there's too much at stake to be fake!**

That's why it bothered Jesus so much! He doesn't want us to miss out on a real authentic relationship with God and with each other and he definitely doesn't want us distracting or discouraging other people from connecting with God either. There just too much at stake to be fake.

And that's why Jesus offers us something more. Something real. Not just some religion to occupy one night of your week, but a relationship with him that will change your entire life! That's what Jesus came to offer us. That's what He wants FOR each of us.

What if we ditched the phony religion that just puts on for a night and chose to embrace a real authentic relationship with God and let it impact our Monday through Saturday life as well?

-What if we didn't just own a bible but we actually read it and lived it out?

-What if we didn't just tweet and instagram stuff we heard at church but what if we went out and lived it?

-What if the stuff we sang in here actually affected the way we lived out there

-What if the things we learn and talk about here began to affect how we live when we're outside of here!

What if Insideout wasn't just a night where we got together a played church, what if it was a lifestyle we lived each and every day of our lives?

Wouldn't that be something?

That's actually what Jesus had in mind. That's what He wants FOR you. That's what we want FOR you. We want you to experience a REAL relationship with Jesus that changes your life and we want you to BE THE REAL DEAL so that when others see your life they catch a glimpse of what Jesus is really like.

There is too much at stake to be fake. Don't settle for religion when you can experience relationship. Don't settle for connecting with God here when you can live for Him out there. Don't settle for faith that only exists one night a week when Jesus wants to change your life and others lives through you.

What would it take for this to become more than just a night?

What do I do when I'm here that needs to make it's way out there?