

# Beauty

Week of March 6

Many people would say church is one of the most boring places to be. Interesting, when the early church was anything but boring. Look at the life of the Lord Jesus – not boring. Look at our God from the beginning – certainly not boring, but brilliant. Why is it that we’ve somehow made the experience of church boring? Could it be that our desire to put on a show has sabotaged the mission of Christ’s body, to infuse the world around us with His DNA? When we got lost in promoting ourselves, we run the risk of losing the precious people Christ wants us to reach with His love.

## Read Matthew 7:15-29

Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit... Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions” (v15-18, 20).

1. We can “talk the talk” but how is it that our actions really do speak louder than words?

What does James 2:14-17 say about faith and actions?

Throughout Scripture the Lord commands His people to gather corporately for worship. No matter what trials we may be facing, or whether or not we *feel* like joining with others to worship the Lord, He is still worthy of our praise and honor. So if our truest desire is to give thanks to God, and some say it’s boring, we should still give thanks to God. But if leaders in the church seek the Lord in prayer and worshipers come through the doors expecting God’s Spirit to move, there will be a level of humility that opens the door for authentic worship to happen. We can’t manufacture it, but we can ask the Lord to draw us into His presence.

2. What do the following Psalms tell us about worshipping our Lord in the power of His Spirit and the responsibility His people have to live in truth?

Psalm 2:8-12

Psalm 92:1-5

Psalm 100

Psalm 149

Worship is not about us. It’s about entering a zone where God’s presence is in charge, where the Holy Spirit is calling the shots, and where the Name of Jesus Christ is exalted. Jesus said, “And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself” (John 12:32). Just as Jesus was lifted up on the cross, we too must be willing to die to self as we live in this world; and we must be willing to die to self as we gather corporately with other believers to worship in His presence.

When we do this, we won’t be worrying about whether or not our worship is exciting. God’s Spirit will be at work drawing men, women, boys, and girls to the Lord Jesus. Worship is more than an emotional high. Worship is about deliberately giving thanks to God—in our personal time, at home, and at church—and it’s about honoring Him in our day-to-day living no matter what kind of day we are having. Worship is about coming before our God with an offering of sacrifice (Exodus 34:20b) and connecting with Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

3. How is worship, life transformation, and serving others with an authentic spirit of love all inter-connected?

Although we are to love “for love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8), we must remember love is an action word and sometimes that means taking a stand for truth. Think of a time your love was tested. How did the Lord call you to “act” upon your love?

How is acting upon our love both difficult and rewarding?

In this weekend’s message our Teaching Team shared information that many unchurched people think church is boring, that many young people feel like church does not connect with their lives and the real world. Another concern among many young people is that the Bible is not being communicated clearly and accurately. In the space below, list any other points of information you learned regarding the myth that Christianity is boring. Then below that, write out your prayer asking the Lord to help you be more fruitful (a good tree), and the Church to be more real in our worship and more effective in reaching people for Christ.

4. Lord, because people are not so much interested in information as they are revelation (me included), here is my request:

Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Jesus said to His disciples:*

*"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields."*

*Matthew 9:38*

### One Year Bible Reading

Mar. 6: Numbers 6:1-7:89, Mark 12:38-13:13, Psalm 49:1-20, Proverbs 10:27-28

Mar. 7: Numbers 8:1-9:23, Mark 13:14-37, Psalm 50:1-23, Proverbs 10:29-30

Mar. 8: Numbers 10:1-11:23, Mark 14:1-2, Psalm 51:1-19, Proverbs 10:31-32

Mar. 9: Numbers 11:24-13:33, Mark 14:22-52, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 11:1-3

Mar. 10: Numbers 14:1-15:16, Mark 14:53-72, Psalm 53:1-6, Proverbs 11:4

Mar. 11: Numbers 15:17-16:40, Mark 15:1-47, Psalm 54:1-7, Proverbs 11:5-6

Mar. 12: Numbers 16:41-18:32, Mark 16:1-20, Psalm 55:1-23, Proverbs 11:7

# BEAUTY

**Text:** Matthew 7: 15-29

**Power Point:** Jesus followers are \_\_\_\_\_ seeking life transformation not \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Plain Truth:

Devoted \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus are anything but \_\_\_\_\_!

- 1) Followers of Jesus are anything but boring—you can't bear fruit without \_\_\_\_\_!
- 2) We are called to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Followers are seeking life transformation not information.