

BETTER

WEEK 1 – BETTER THAN PERFECT

OPENING

BAPTISM – TONIGHT

BBQ IN THE PARK – TONIGHT

BETTER

The message of Jesus doesn't necessarily guarantee you a **better life**, but it does guarantee that you'll get **better at life**.

- The message of Jesus doesn't necessarily guarantee you a better life.
 - Circumstances of Life
- The message of Jesus makes you better at life.
 - Approach to Life

KARMA – Do good things, and good things will happen to you.

"I have told you all this so that you may have **peace in me**. Here on earth **you will have many trials and sorrows**. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33

BETTER THAN PERFECT

SOME OF YOU – "What could be better than perfect?"

PERFECTIONIST:

Someone who believes that perfection should be strived for and can be achieved. In it's pathological form, it's an unhealthy belief that anything less than perfect is not acceptable.

SOCIALLY PRESCRIBED PERFECTIONISM – You only have value if you're perfect

- High Correlation with Depression – "Better I do, More Is Expected"

OTHER-ORIENTED PERFECTIONISM – Demands perfection from others

- Damages intimate relationships

SELF-ORIENTED PERFECTIONISM – Internal desire to be perfect

- Not a desire to excel /// Low Stress – Fine /// Stressors – Mental Health Issues

BETTER THAN PERFECT CONT...

"Instead of addressing their standards, when I work with perfectionists I try to address what's causing them to behave that way. The need to be accepted, to be cared for, and other interpersonal needs... those are what drive the perfectionist." Dr. Paul Hewitt (University of British Columbia)

THE STANDARD

We love the Bible /// The Bible points us to Jesus /// John 1 – GRACE & TRUTH

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:48

1. God refuses to lower His standards **FOR US**.

2. The most loving thing God can do is allow us to be **MEASURED AGAINST** His standards.

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good - except God alone." Mark 10:18

3. In reality, we **are not** meeting the standard.

WE HAVE BLOWN IT, ARE BLOWING IT, AND WILL BLOW IT.

"So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him **it is sin**." James 4:17

"**All have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23

"If we say we have **no sin, we deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar**, and his word is not in us." 1 John 1:8-10

1. We all **SIN**.

2. The message of Jesus isn't about **MANAGING YOUR SIN**, it's an invitation to **SOMETHING BETTER**.

Matthew 5 – You've heard it said...

- LAW? Murder. Adultery. Divorce. Truth "Oaths". "Eye for Eye". Love Enemies

Mark 10 – You know the commandments...

- "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not lie, do not steal, honor your parents."

3. The standard is **JESUS**. (Remind – It is loving)

THE PERFORMANCE GAP

1. There is a **CEILING** to our capacity.

- Your strength will come to an end.
- Your time will run out.
- Your own thoughts will fail you.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."
Proverbs 14:12

2. There will always be a **GAP** between your performance and God's standard.

3. God chooses to fill that gap with **GRACE**.

EMPTY

"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—**only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug**. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." 1 Kings 17:12

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.**" 1 Kings 17:13-14

The emptiness in your life is the only place God can fill.

ILLUSTRATION – Vase / Rocks / Water

To many of us are not fulfilled in life because our lives are not filled by God.

Better than perfect?

- VALUE? – You earned /// OR /// You were given it
- **God's love is better than our perfection.**
- How do you love others?
"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12
- **The only way to love someone is to choose them and give them love.**