

# Sierra's Weekly Message Action Plan



## Sierra's Weekly Action Plan:

A quick reminder to pray for the parents and children that participated in our "Parent / Child Dedications" two weeks ago. They are: Joe and Laurel's son & daughter, Silas and Abigail; Jordan's daughter, Xander; and Mathew & Katryna's daughter, Elyzabeth Hope.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on *Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:1-3

1. This last Sunday we did a quick review of the last nine weeks we spent examining Jesus' teaching in Matthew chapters 5 through 7. *The teaching found in these chapters are among the most challenging set of teachings anywhere in the Bible.* The third point of my message was: **Taking these teachings seriously demonstrates that you belong to God's family.** I used the illustration of how children often resemble their parents or siblings and when they do, that it is a sure sign that they belong to the same family. In the same way Jesus says in Matthew chapter 5 verse 44 & 45, "I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that *you may be children of your Father in heaven.*" The point being that the sure sign that God is our Father, is that we follow His ways of living! Now this is for your benefit and His Glory. It's for our benefit, because it gives us ASSURANCE that we belong to Him. *Never forget that you do not and can not earn your way into God's family by your own effort!* The Bible is clear that following Him demonstrates that we trust Him and the work He did for us by purchasing the forgiveness that we can't earn ourselves. So obeying isn't what makes

you His children, it's a sign that you are! Following Him also is for His glory because it brings Him honor and pleasure showing that we love Him and have made Him our priority in life. It also demonstrates to others what God is like because He loves His enemies, he even died for them! Remember that these chapters not only describe the narrow path for us to follow, but they give us a clear picture of exactly who Jesus was, His values and the priorities that guided His life. Of course He lived them out perfectly - that's why Jesus is indeed our CHAMPION. He did for us what we are not able to achieve with our own effort.

**2. This coming Sunday is one of my favorite ones of the year!** You won't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate what God is doing in one of the most important parts of our church family! I'm not telling what it is, you'll have to come see for yourselves.

Have great week!

It is a privilege to work and pray with all of you!

Noah