

Sermon: "And They Began Laughing at Him" or "Christians and Sinful Negativity"  
Scripture: Mark 5:40, Selected Texts

Introduction:

Special Guest  
Today's subject  
Motivational and demotivational posters

I. Defining terms, clarifying the concern, remembering responsibility:

Matthew 7:15,16  
Acts 20:28-30  
Galatians 1:6-9  
Sanctified sarcasm  
*A Serrated Edge* by Douglas Wilson

II. Illustrations from Scripture:

Mark 5:40  
John 11:7,15,16  
I Samuel 17  
Luke 7:31-33  
Matthew 16:21-23  
John 12:5,6  
II Corinthians 10  
Jeremiah 20:7

III. So how are we doing?

I Corinthians 13:1,2  
Carey  
Taylor  
Whitefield  
Philippians 4:13  
Philippians 4:19  
Romans 8:28  
James 1:2,3  
Hebrews 12:11  
Psalm 34:9,10  
Psalm 37:4  
Matthew 6:34

IV. Why is this sin so ugly?

Micah 4:1-5; 5:1-5; 7:7,8

V. What must we do?

A. How to address a sinfully negative spirit in ourselves:

1. Continuing repentance
2. Remember Christ – test ourselves
3. Be thankful
4. Walk by faith
5. Be an encourager

- B. How to address a sinfully negative spirit in others:
1. Listen, examine, use or ignore
  2. Confront, pray for, move on
  3. Remember your own sin; be thankful for grace
  4. Learn to pity them as being small-minded individuals
  5. Let them laugh. Jesus is smiling too but with a different attitude.