

Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:1-26

Aim: To apply the teaching of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount to our lives.

Intro: On Sunday mornings in our current series on Luke’s Gospel we will be considering teaching that is also found in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. This home group series will seek to add to what we will be considering in our Sunday morning sermon series.

What do you think is the thrust of Christ’s teaching is in His Sermon on the Mount?

It is where the King of God’s Kingdom (Jesus) gives us the keys to living in His Kingdom. We are not saved by living out these words, but if we are saved, then these words help us know how we are to live.

Matthew 5:1-12

What was the setting of the start of the Sermon on the Mount? (vv.1-2, 19)

Jesus sought to teach His disciples about how we are to live in His kingdom. He wanted to do this away from the crowds. But as He taught, the crowds came around them (Matt 7:28-29)

Consider the Beatitudes in Matt 5:3-9. How should we view them? What are they about?

They are the Christ-like characteristics that are to mark the heart of every true follower of Jesus.

Note: “Poor in spirit” is humility; those who “mourn” are those who sorrow over sin.

As we live out these characteristics with the help of the Spirit, what encouragement do we have?

We will be blessed of God, and we will receive an appropriate blessing for each characteristic.

What encouragement do you receive from vv.10-12?

No matter what we must bear in regard to persecution, we have a great reward in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-20

As we live out the Beatitudes, what does Jesus want us to become? (vv.13-16)

He wants us to be the salt of the earth; preserving life from sin’s decay, and enhancing life by living out the abundant life of Jesus (John 10:10). We are also to be the light of the world, shining Christ’s light to all. Consider the moon. It’s just dirt, but it reflects the sun’s light. We are meant to reflect Jesus’ light.

As we live as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, what will this result in?

It will result in our “good works” glorifying our Father in heaven. We were made for “good works” (cf. Eph 2:10), and the main goal of our life is to glorify God (1 Cor 10:31). *Does the way we live our life show to others that our main goal is this? What would those around us think our main goal for life is?*

How are we to take vv.17-19 in the light of God’s grace?

We are saved by grace (Eph 2:8-9), but as a follower of Jesus we are to keep God’s law out of love for Him (John 14:15). If we don’t, we should question whether we’ve been born of God (cf. 1 John 2:3-6).

In the light of v.19, when are we “least” or “greatest” in the kingdom of heaven?

We are “least” when we are lawless; we are “great” when we do and teach Christ’s law (cf. Matt 28:20)

The Pharisees were well known for their righteous life. Is our life more righteous than theirs, for unless it is, we will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven? How can we be more righteous than them? (v.20)
We have been made righteous by faith in Christ (Rom 3:21-22). Even so, through the re-birth there ought to be a practical righteousness in our life. The Pharisees practiced their righteousness to be noticed by people. One thing we can do to be more righteous than them is to be righteous for God.

Matthew 5:21-26

In Matt 5:21-7:12 Jesus gives His law in how we are to live in His kingdom. He takes the “damaged” law the Jewish leadership thrust onto the people, and gives the “perfect” law. The first section is on anger.

How should we view anger and contempt toward another in the light of Matt 5:21-22?

We should equate anger and contempt with murder. These sins are as serious as murder in God’s eyes.

Jesus was angry at the temple (Matt 21:12-13). Is there a place for anger?

There is, righteous anger (being angry over injustices and over sins which mars God’s glory). However, most of our anger is not righteous (cf. Jam 1:19-20). It is selfish, coming from fear, frustration or hurt.

In what way could we show contempt toward others? [discuss]

What are we to do if we are not right with someone? (vv.23-24)

We are to go and put things right. The emphasis is on us **going**, and not waiting for the other person to come to us. We are even to put it above religious duties; eg, for us, before we have communion.

In vv.25-26, what is Jesus saying we should do in judicial matters?

What matters most is to seek reconciliation through forgiveness and restitution. We are not to be angry or contemptuous and seek “payback”; even if we are treated unjustly. Cf. Jesus in Luke 23:34.

Summary: Christians are to be distinct from others by the way they live. *How different are you?*