

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH

Week 8 – The Sermon On The Mount – Further Proclamations from the King

November 2, 2021

WHY are we remaining in the Sermon on the Mount? Jesus is announcing true righteousness – God’s righteousness! This is the THEOLOGY OF THE MESSIAH!

We need to know what God’s righteousness looks like!

In His proclamation, Jesus presented Himself as the prophesied King. And, the kingdom He offered is the prophesied kingdom that is clearly described in the OT. We know from Scripture that the Kingdom of God will be delivered by Jesus after His physical Second Coming. Yet, as we read the Sermon on the Mount, it’s clear that Jesus expected an immediate response from His hearers.

Jesus spoke to the Jewish people in His day! The lives of the common people of Jesus’ day revolved around two oppressive and often opposing forces:

- The pronouncements of their Jewish religious leaders who controlled everything they, the common people, believed...and...
- ...the imperial power of Rome who controlled everything the Jewish people did.

John 1:17 - *the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* Consider: The law given by God through Moses was not a display of God’s grace but it was given to reflect God’s holiness and to display that man falls far short of God’s holiness.

Further consideration: the demands of the law of God are unalterable...they are NOT to be changed because the law reveals the holiness of God! And Jesus told the people He didn’t come to destroy the law and the prophets (Matt. 5:17).

What we must remember is that the Law of Moses (I Kings 2:3; II Kings 23:25; Ezra 3:2) was never intended to save – to justify – to declare righteous – to place a person in a right relationship with God. The one law composed of 613 commandments was to display God’s holiness and our abject poverty. We have absolutely nothing of worth to offer to God for our salvation. The law shows us our desperate need of the Messiah Jesus!

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus laid out what has always been the one way of salvation throughout the Bible. Salvation is always by God’s grace through His gift of faith (Eph. 2:8-9) in God’s revealed message which always points to the Redeemer, Jesus! And so, Jesus, imparting grace and truth, laid out to His people what characterizes

true righteousness which is God's righteousness imputed to individuals who confess their sin and place their trust in Jesus!

Blessed are the poor in spirit – who realize that they are spiritually bankrupt before God – having no ability to deliver themselves from their sin.

Blessed are those who mourn – who grieve over their sin. Sin is rebellion against God; sin is offending God. Psa. 51:4 – *Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight.*

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Blessed are those who are meek – who display strength and power under control by the Holy Spirit. Instead of reacting against whatever or whomever comes against us, meekness gives us the power and strength to refrain and love those who don't love us!

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – who fervently seek after God...who continually long to meet with God...who know that only Jesus' satisfies...and know that both, in the meeting with God and in the longing after God, Jesus satisfies!

Jesus continues to tell His people...

Matt. 5:7 - *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.* Mercy is NOT our nature. Mercy belongs to God (Psa. 62:12)! Apart from coming to faith in God, we are naturally (in the flesh) - selfish. True righteousness from God produces loving care and concern for the needs of others.

Matt. 5:8 - *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* Those who have...

- acknowledged their own sin and grieved over their sin
- who have displayed meekness in placing God's purposes over their own
- who are concerned about the things that concern God
- who hunger/thirst/long to meet with God and are satisfied in Him ALONE
- who are being conformed to His image (II Cor. 3:18)
- who will be presented as blameless (Jude v. 24 - *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...*)

These are the pure in heart. They have been TRANSFORMED BY GOD!

The Pharisees measured purity through conformity to their traditions. What a contrast!

Matt. 5:9 - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

Those who are peacemakers have peace with God through the forgiveness of their sin. Peacemakers know peace in GOD...in a relationship with Him because they know being satisfied, being content in Him alone!

The Pharisees taught that one was a son of God through their Jewish lineage through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matt. 3:7-9).

Jesus declared that one becomes a child of God by FAITH in Him. John 1:12-13 - *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (the authority) to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Matt. 5:10 - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

John 16:33 - *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation (trials); but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

Persecuted – experiencing hostility, ill-treatment, abuse, mistreatment, torture... Persecution can come through mockery of us from family or friends, oppressive

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treatment at work, a poor grade from a hostile instructor, loss of money due to a refusal to compromise.

Matt. 5:11-12 - *Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.* ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. We are told to REJOICE and be EXCEEDINGLY GLAD!!

In II Cor. 11:24-28 Paul wrote of the many sufferings that he endured.

Col. 1:24 - *I now rejoice in my sufferings for you....*

Paul explained that the hatred of those who persecuted him was not primarily directed at him, but at Jesus! Paul understood that Jesus endured the pain of the cross – the torture that was meant for him – for Paul.

Jesus then explained the influence of those who accepted His word and became His disciples/followers....

Matt. 5:13 - *You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to*

all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Salt preserves food. Salt slows or retards the rate of decay. Jesus is speaking to His potential followers of the dynamic force that they could exert in their culture. They were being called to act as preservatives in the world...slowing down the advancement of moral and spiritual decay. Jesus told the people in His day, and us today, that His followers are to preserve truth in a fallen world. Salt was also used as a flavor enhancer. Jesus may have been referring to many believers accentuating the gospel – accentuating the difference that Jesus makes in a person’s life!

Matt. 5:14-16 - *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* Those who trusted in Jesus’ words would serve as light in the midst of darkness. Jesus told those who were listening to him that a lamp should not be hidden...it should be put in a prominent place so that all can be illuminated by it. Consider: Jesus knew that there would be strong temptation for His followers/disciples to hide their light. The light would so expose them to the ill will of the Roman rulers and the religious leaders. Jesus wants to live out our belief in Him before the world!

Matt. 5:17 – *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* Jesus proclaimed that He was not against the law of God. He was not against the prophets whom God sent to the nation of Israel to warn them to forsake their wicked ways and turn to God. The law is completely, perfectly fulfilled in Jesus. He paid the penalty for man NOT being able to obey the law.

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Matt. 5:18 - *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.* Jesus affirmed the inerrancy of the word of God down to the smallest letter or part of a letter.

Jesus said, *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away...* How did the Jewish people know that the heaven and earth would pass away?

Isa. 34:4 - *All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; all their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.*

Isa. 65:17-19 - *For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.*

Isa. 66:22 - *For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me, says the LORD, so shall your descendants and your name remain.*

Why believers in Jesus are NOT under the Law of Moses, the Mosaic Law:

- The law exposes us. The law exposes sin. The law exposes our fallenness!
- The law cannot save – it cannot justify (declare righteous).
- If man didn't obey the law perfectly, judgment and condemnation followed.
- Deut. 27:26 - *Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them* (Deut. 28:58ff).
- Rom. 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!*

Matt. 5:19-20 - *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* Jesus told the people that their attitude toward the law mattered because, bottom line, the law reflects God's holiness (Psa. 19:7).

Jesus recognized that the Jewish religious leadership were concerned about righteousness. However, they had a misconception of what the law actually intended and demanded. Sharing the truth of God's word is LOVING! Not loving people is withholding the gift of the good news of eternal life with God. Let's continue to ponder!

QUESTIONS:

What impacted you which would inspire you to impact others?

Do you think of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" differently?

How are you going to live your life for the Lord differently?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 8 with the Bible references.

PONDER!

Share whatever God has taught you from this sermon with at least one other person.

Read Week 9 when you receive it.