

“The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached”

Matthew 5v1-9

Scripture Ref: Matt 4:25; Matt 5:17; James 4:6; Is 6:5; Is 55:12; Ps 136:1; Ps 41:4; Rom 5:1; James 3:18; Eph 4:24

1. So are you ready for “The Greatest sermon ever preached?”
 - a. Hopefully you caught that I did not mean my sermon would be the greatest ever preached,
 - b. but that this sermon that Jesus taught is in my opinion the greatest!
2. Go back to Matt 4:25...

Matt 4:25 *Great multitudes followed Him -- from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.*

3. “Great multitudes” – probably thousands following Him around.
 - a. Recently Barak Obama spoke in Berlin, 200,000 people came out to hear him.
 - b. Imagine if he were not only a good speaker, but he was healing everyone that was brought to Him
 - c. And he came to Hugh McRae park, the park would be full! They would be emptying out the hospitals, people with all types of diseases and problems would be flocking to the park
 - d. Many more would be going just to see what was happening, check things out
 - e. That is the atmosphere of the sermon on the mount
4. Some look at this and say it is a “guide for life” – if we live according to these principles we will be blessed.
 - a. Others say that it is the “plan for salvation” – if we live according to these teachings we will earn our place in heaven
 - b. Others say this is how things will be in the future millennial kingdom...
 - c. In fact there is some truth to these positions... but I believe that they bigger message is this:
 - d. *Jesus is not trying to tell us how we SHOULD LIVE, He is showing us how we SHALL LIVE, if HE is the Lord of our lives...*
 - e. You could also say that in this sermon, Jesus gives us the perfect commentary on the law – How it is supposed to look in real life!
5. You see – our walk with Christ is not led by what we DO, it is led by more than strict adherence to rules and laws – it is led by the condition of our heart

- a. **The religious rulers of Jesus day taught the message of “doing righteousness” – do this, don’t do that – all of course based on the law.**
- b. **Jesus said...**

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.

- c. **In life everything comes from the heart – what we do, what we say, how we live, how we treat others**
6. **In this we will see ...**
- a. **How we see *ourselves***
 - b. **How we see *righteousness***
 - c. **How we see *God***

5:1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

How We See Ourselves

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

7. **Poor – mourn – meek – these are not words that we embrace, certainly not the world in general!**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

8. **Poor in spirit means “humility”, it means that we have a proper view of ourselves and of God**
- a. **“God is supreme, I am not”**
 - b. **Poor in spirit means that I understand that I have NOTHING to contribute to my spiritual condition - I have no spiritual assets...**
 - c. **I am spiritually bankrupt!**
 - d. **This is indeed the entrance point to heaven – to be willing to make an honest assessment of myself as a being – to agree with God that on my own I am sinful**
 - e. **When a man/woman comes to this place, we understand that we absolutely need God – nothing I have can bring me out of this place.**
 - f. **It is a place of continual existence – as we walk with God, as we grow and mature, we see more and more of the majesty of our King – the poorer in spirit we become**

James 4:6 "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

9. Now, God isn't trying to make us cry – to hurt us...

- a. But there is something that happens when a person begins to open their heart to who God really is – His righteousness, His majesty, His glory...
- b. When Isaiah saw a vision of the Lord, the first words out of his mouth were:

Isa 6:5 "Woe is me, for I am undone!"

- c. He saw his sin, even as a prophet of the Lord, and it floored him
- d. Mourning our sin is not wallowing in self-pity, it is coming to terms that our sin has hurt ourselves, others, and the Lord!

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth

10. In the vocabulary of the ancient Greek language, the meek person was not passive or easily pushed around.

- a. The main idea behind the word "meek" was strength under control, like a strong stallion that was trained to do the job instead of running wild
- b. To be meek means to show willingness to submit and work under proper authority. It also shows a willingness to disregard one's own "rights" and privileges
- c. We can only be meek, willing to control our desire for our rights and privileges because we are confident God watches out for us, that He will protect our cause.
- d. The promise "they shall inherit the earth" proves that God will not allow His meek ones to end up on the short end of the deal

11. REWARD: Kingdom of heaven, comfort, Inherit the earth!

12. These first three characteristics would never find a place in the heart of the natural man – these are characteristics that would only be found in the heart that is submitted to and controlled by God!

How We See Righteousness

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

13. As these characteristics deal with the heart... this beatitude looks deeper

- a. What do I hunger and thirst for?

- b. Do I desire the wickedness of the world, or do I desire the righteousness of God?
- c. It's a binary question – one of two answers – right or left, up or down - there are no shades of grey
- d. We choose – we have a choice – what this really comes down to is “what or whom will I worship?”

14. Did you know that man is the only created being that has a choice whether or not to worship God?

Isa 55:12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

- a. All of creation speaks instinctively to its creator, yet man has a WILL – we can choose what we worship.
- b. I am not saying that the rocks and trees are sentient beings that literally sing and clap...
- c. But in a sense they reflect and speak forth the supernatural creative power of God, who created them placed them in the physical world.

15. If we choose to NOT worship God, we are living at a level below the rocks and the trees.

- a. Yet when we as created beings make the conscious choice to give praise and honor to our creator, we enter in to a realm of relationship that transcends the instinctive declaration of nature.
- b. We enter in to a realm of relationship that goes beyond simply
 - i. ...believing that there is a God
 - ii. ...or reading about God
 - iii. ...or singing songs about God....
- c. ...we enter into a spiritual, emotional, and physical experience that magnifies the Lord of the creation.

16. We choose what we will worship – our choice is based upon our desire – what do you desire? What do you hunger for?

- a. If you hunger for righteousness – you will be filled!
- b. And you will obtain mercy...

How We See God

7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are the merciful

17. We serve the God of mercy...

Ps 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

- a. **This is important, because this is the first step in coming to a relationship with God – the heart that seek forgiveness for sin**

Ps 41:4 I said, "LORD, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

- b. **And the true sign of one who has received mercy is one who gives mercy to others.**
- c. **This gets to the heart of having the heart of God – God is merciful, he has chosen to grant mercy and forgiveness to us – and we can show our love for Him by choosing to grant mercy and forgiveness to others...**
- d. **This really speaks to extending mercy and help to those who need it – whether they deserve it or not.**

Blessed are the pure in heart

18. In the ancient Greek, the phrase pure of heart has the idea of straightness, honesty, and clarity

- a. **Those who are straightforward and honest with God, who diligently seek Him, will be rewarded with a deeper relationship with Him!**

Blessed are the peacemakers

19. This does not describe those who *live* in peace, but those who actually bring about peace, overcoming evil with good

- a. **Again, this is the person who has the heart of God...**

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

James 3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

20. Merciful – pure in heart – peacemakers – these are characteristics of our heavenly father

- a. **Giving mercy to others – being filled with and walking by His Spirit, bringing peace**

- b. These are characteristics that are imparted to the children of God when His Spirit is resident in their lives...
 - c. These are the attributes that would naturally flow from the heart that is submitted to God – filled with His Spirit...
- 21.... and you shall be called sons of God. Why? Because you do these things?
- a. I have four kids – well three and one adult (!), they are called my children not because they act certain way...
 - b. They are called my children because they were begotten by my wife and I – they carry our DNA, our genetic markers,
 - c. They carry the years of pouring into them our character and nature – some positive, some negative.
 - d. When you were born again into Christ – you were made new according to Him

...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 4:24

22. You are different – you should know it – you **shall walk** according to it – and the world will see it too...

- ***You might look at these characteristics we have talked about and thing “wow, I really see that in my life as a Christian!” Awesome!***
- ***You are a living witness to the power of God working in your life! You are being a living witness to others, as they see these characteristics in your life!***
- ***Or, you might be thinking – “that doesn’t sound like me at all” – The point for you is not “I have got to try harder to be like what Pastor Clay said today!” NO!***
- ***The point is this: Where am I with God? Where is my relationship with God today?***
- ***Maybe you have let your relationship with God get distant... maybe you don’t have one at all... whatever the case – let’s deal with it today!***

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