

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Gospel of Matthew

Week 6 – 10/27/2021

- Jesus had four major discourses
 - o Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7
 - The Manifesto of the Kingdom
 - o Mystery Parables – Matthew 13
 - The direction the kingdom of heaven will take after Christ's rejection
 - o Olivet Discourse – Matthew 24-25
 - The insider's briefing
 - Prophetic (often confused with but distinct from Luke 21)
 - o Upper Room Farewell Address – John 14-17
 - New relationships in view of Christ's death, resurrection, ascension, and intercession
- The Sermon on the Mount
 - o One of the most misunderstood portions of scripture
 - o The law of the kingdom, it is the highest ethical teaching in the Bible
 - o It goes beyond the law of Moses
 - o The ten commandments amplified and expanded
 - o This sermon raises the law to the Nth degree
 - o It is the longest discourse recorded in scripture
 - o It is addressed to the believer, not the general public
 - o This sermon would serve as a condemnation to the unbeliever
 - o In the entire sermon, there is no viable path to salvation mentioned, no gospel of salvation discussed
 - o It is a lengthy statement of the problem where Jesus is the ONLY answer
 - o It presents the highest ethics in the Bible without supplying the dynamic to meet those lofty ethics
 - o It is summed up by Paul in Romans 8:3-4 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."
- The Manifesto of our King
 - o Relationships to His subjects
 - To self - 5:1-16
 - To the law – 5:17-48
 - To God – 6
 - To others – 7
- The first 16 verses of chapter 5 describe the true Christian and deal with character
- The rest of the Sermon on the Mount deals with the conduct that grows out of character

- Character always comes before conduct because what we are determines what we do
- Character vs. Integrity
 - Integrity = belief + discipline
 - Vertebrae of the soul
 - Character = Integrity + wisdom
 - Proverbs 9:10 “The FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.”
 - Fear = “morally reverant”
- Matthew 5:1-16
 - Jesus shows us that true righteousness is inward
- Matthew 5:17-48
 - Jesus shows us that sin is also inward
 - He thus exposes the false righteousness of the Pharisees, who taught that Holiness consisted in religious actions, and that sin is what you did outwardly
- 1-4
 - Who came unto Jesus? His disciples, NOT the public
 - The Beatitudes 5:4-9
 - He didn’t give this sermon to the multitudes, but to His disciples which were already His; citizens of Heaven
 - They are the Be – Attitudes not the Do – Attitudes
 - Be these things and you will automatically do
 - Poor in spirit – vs. 3
 - Our attitude toward ourselves in which we feel our need and admit it.
 - We must be empty before He can fill us
 - 2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”
 - Isaiah 57:15 “For thus saith the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”
 - Those that mourn – vs. 4
 - Not a funeral mourning, but our attitude toward our sin; a true sorrow for sin
 - Spiritual maturity is measured by how much you hate sin
 - The meek – vs. 5
 - Meekness is NOT weakness
 - Meekness is NOT asserting my own rights but living of the Glory of God
 - Our attitude toward others; we are teachable
 - We do not defend ourselves when we are wrong
 - We need true backbone to stand up for Christ
 - Meek aren’t inheriting now. They will when Jesus reigns.

- Hunger and thirst – vs. 6
 - True Christians have an appetite for Spiritual things
 - Here our attitude toward God is expressed; we receive His righteousness by faith because we ask for it.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14 “For the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- Merciful – vs. 7
 - Reap what you sow principle
 - We have a forgiving Spirit and love others (love means telling the truth and NOT compromising)
 - You can't earn mercy
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”
- Pure in heart – vs. 8
 - Not sinless, but Truth is within
 - We keep our lives and motives clean
 - Holiness is happiness; no substitute will do
 - NOWHERE in the Bible is a heart made clean. The seeker is given a new one.
 - Psalm 51:6 “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”
- Peacemakers – vs. 9
 - The world is at war; SPIRITUALLY
 - Compromise is NOT peace
 - We should bring peace between people and God as well as between those who are at odds with each other.
 - Romans 5:1 “Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Persecuted – vs. 10
 - All who live Godly lives will be persecuted
 - 2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
 - Persecution = to be pursued and given to persecution