

The Sermon On The Mount (Matthew 5 - 7)

1.) ***The first of five major discourses in Matthew.***

Each one ends with a phrase similar to "When Jesus had finished these words. . ."

(Matt. 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)

2.) ***Matthew 1 - 4 are preparatory.***

Jesus prepares for His earthly ministry and is set forth as:

- * The son of David - Mt. 1:1ff; II Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 89
- * The son of Abraham - Mt. 1:1; Gen. 12:3
- * The Son of God - Mt. 1:20, 23; 3:17; Hos. 11:1
- * King of the Jews - Mt. 2:1-12; Ps. 89
- * Prophet/Teacher - Mt. 4:17; Dt. 18:15; Isa. 9:1,2
- * These chapters also provide early testimony of John (3:1-17); The Father (3:17) and Jesus withstanding early temptations.

3.) ***Geographical setting*** - Mt. 4:23; Isa. 9:12

4.) ***Audience*** - 4:25; 5:1; 7:28

5.) ***Purpose***

A. Purpose Is Not:

- 1) The law of a Millennial Utopian earthly kingdom (Mt. 5:10)
- 2) A discourse on the Law of Moses (4:23; 5:3,10,19,20; 6:10,33; 7:21)
- 3) A discourse showing contrasts between the Law of Moses and the Gospel 5:43
- 4) A plan of social reconstruction.

B. Purpose is:

- 1) 4:17 "Repentance, for the kingdom of Heaven" was "at hand"
- 2) 4:23 Proclaiming the "good news of the kingdom"
- 3) 5:3 - 7:12 Jesus shows the character and blessedness of kingdom citizens.
- 4) 7:13 - 27 Jesus exhorts us to enter the kingdom and warns of dangers along the way.
- 5) 5:20,43 ***To correct misinterpretations and abuses of God's law***
The Scribes and Pharisees had drained the life and meaning from the Law. cp. 5:20 ff; 15:1-14; 23:1-28)
- 6) 5:17 - 19 To set forth Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law
- 7) 5:22,28,32,34,39,44; 7:28,29 To set forth the authority of Jesus
- 8) 5:3 - 9 ***To set forth timeless truths and principles***
(the many principles taught in these chapters; humility, meekness, mercy, morality, purity of heart, honesty, etc. would apply in every Bible age)

6.) **Outline of the Sermon**

A. The Sermon may be broken down into three main parts;

- 1) **The citizens of the kingdom** (5:3 -16)
 - their character and blessedness (5:3-12)
 - their relation to the world (5:13 -16)
- 2) **The righteousness of the kingdom.** (the standard of life demanded by the King. Not in totality but it's ethical core. (5:17 - 7:12))
 - true righteousness on the subject of hatred and violence (5:21-26)
 - true righteousness on the subject of morality (5:27-32)
 - true righteousness on the subject of honesty (5:33-37)
 - true righteousness in the treatment of our enemies (5:38-48)
 - true righteousness in motive (6:1-18)
 - true righteousness in our attitude toward money and material things (6:19-33)
 - true righteousness in our judgment of others (7:1-6)
 - true righteousness in our trust toward God (7:7-12)
- 3) **Exhortation to enter the kingdom** (7:13-27)

Conclusion:

"The more I study Jesus, the more I realize that the statements contained here (Mt. 5-7) lie at the heart of His message. If I fail to understand this teaching, I fail to understand Him." (Philip Yancey - The Jesus I Never Knew, page 105)

"It seems certain that no other speech ever delivered has so influenced man as has this Sermon on the Mount." (Whiteside page 117)

The Sermon On The Mount shouts loud and clear the message.

God **hates** hypocrisy, ritualism, legalism, lip service, insincerity and pride.

God **loves** those who genuinely love Him and prove it by loving obedience to His Son. (Mt. 7:21-27)

Let these words of Jesus pierce deeply into your heart. The ruling power of Christ in your heart will not only enable us to face the many trials and temptations of life, they will also make you the light and salt you need to be in evangelizing precious souls all around you. (Mt. 5:16)

Together, with Jesus leading the way, we will help each other see the blessedness of these beautiful attitudes, come to know Jesus as He truly is and begin to see ourselves as God intended us to be.

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