

The Good Book



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The Sermon on the Mount
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Spiritual Beggar



Key Points:

1. The Perspective of the Kingdom (5:1-19)
2. The Prerequisite to Entering the Kingdom (5:20-48)
3. The Practices of the Kingdom (6:1-7:29)

The Perspective of the Kingdom

- This sermon contrasts the perspective of Jesus with the Pharisees (How the Pharisees' perspective developed).
- Matthew 5:1-19 contrasts the Pharisees' belief that God was blessing them now on earth due to their faithful works with Jesus' emphasis on a humble heart that mourns sin, denies self, receives God's imputed righteousness, and looks to a future kingdom while maintaining the truth of God's word (Matthew 5:17-19)

Matthew 5:1-9 (ESV)

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 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. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive 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."

Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV)

- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

- “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

The Prerequisite for Entering the Kingdom

- “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mat. 5:20 ESV).
- “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mat. 5:48 ESV). “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Mat. 6:33 ESV).
- Jesus challenges the Pharisees’ understanding of following the laws and their oral interpretation of them as the main condition for kingdom entrance.
- He also challenges their tendency to emphasize the letter of the law as opposed to the Spirit of the law.

Matthew 5:21-22 (ESV)

- "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."
- Most people think they have not murdered but Jesus says they have and they need to be reconciled to God and others for that (Mat. 5:23-26).
- For Jesus, hell is a real place of eternal punishment and even a small sin of anger is enough to go there.

Matthew 5:27-32 (ESV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Adultery

- Most people would say they have not committed adultery but they have when they looked upon another person with lust.
- Even divorce and remarriage in situations outside of sexual immorality and abandonment by a non-Christian spouse can be adulterous (1 Corinthians 7:15).
- However, as Christians, we should look upon these situations mercifully since we are all adulterers.

Additional Sins

- Not letting your yes be yes and your no be no is equivalent to lying and using God's name in vain (Matthew 5:33-37).
- Even if we could possibly avoid sins of commission our sins of omission of self preservation, being generous to those in need, and loaning our money are enough to get us into hell (Matthew 5:38-42).
- Unlike the Pharisees, we should mercifully love and pray for our enemies as God loves sinful enemies and cares for them (Matthew 5:43-47).

Practices of the Kingdom

1. Playing for an audience of one (6:1-18).
2. Preparing for a future with the One (6:19-34)
3. Pronouncing judgment like the One (7:1-6)
4. The Provision of the One (7:7-14)
5. The Prophets of the One (7:15-23)
6. The Proper Foundation of the One (7:24-29)

Playing for An Audience of One

1. Avoiding Practicing Our Righteousness in front of others (Matthew 6:1-4)

Matthew 6:1 (ESV), “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

2. Praying and Fasting that God rewards (6:5-18)

Matthew 6:5 (ESV), “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.”

Matthew 6:9-15 (ESV)

- Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Preparing for a Future with the One

1. Eternal Heavenly Treasures (6:19-23)
2. Avoiding Two Masters (24-34)
 - a. Our devotion to One Master (God) is measured by our trust in Him (24-32).
 - b. Our devotion to One Master (God) is measured by our seeking of His kingdom and His righteousness by His way (33-34).

Eternal Heavenly Treasures

Matthew 6:19-23 (ESV)

- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Devotion = Trust

Matthew 6:24-25 (ESV)

- No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵
"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Pronouncing judgment like the One (7:1-6)

1. People who have experienced mercy judge with mercy (1-2).
2. People who have experienced mercy focus on their own sins before they focus on others (3-6).

Matthew 7:1-2 (ESV)

- Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.
- The Bible says we should point out clear sins (1 Corinthians 5:2) but not judge solely based on appearances (James 2-4) or be stricter with others than we are on ourselves.

Matthew 7:3-6 (ESV)

- Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. ⁶ "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

The Provision of the One

The Provision of the One (7:7-14)

1. God our righteous Father, desires to give the kingdom to those who ask for it (7:7-12).
2. The way of faith in Jesus Christ is the narrow way that one must enter for the kingdom (7:13-14).

The Prophets of the One

The Prophets of the One (7:7-14)

1. The prophet is known by their fruit (15-20)
2. Many who have done great things for God will not be in heaven with Him (21-23)

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

- Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

The Proper Foundation of the One

- “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it” (Mat. 7:24-27 ESV).

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Closing Illustration: How to raise a Christian Child in a Pagan Home by Barrett Johnson