



THE SERMON

on the Mount

You've Heard it Said... But I Say...

The Sermon on the Mount Recap...

- Setting & Background
 - People have witnessed great miracles and heard amazing teaching and Jesus has become famous (Matt 4:23-25)
 - The sermon is directed to his disciples, not the crowds
- Introduction to the Kingdom of God
 - The upside-down kingdom
 - The Beatitudes... Who is blessed?
 - Salt, Light, City on a Hill... Jesus' disciples will be recognized!
 - A new kind of righteousness... (2 motivational systems)
 1. Scribes & Pharisees: I obey, therefore I'm accepted
 2. The Gospel: I'm accepted, therefore I obey

Matthew 5:21-32

²¹ 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. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny

²⁷ 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."

Who is Righteous?

1. Example #1: Anger/Contempt

- Jesus cuts straight to the heart of the matter
- Jesus is exposing the murderous hearts of people who think they're righteous because they have obeyed the external command (Scribe & Pharisee righteousness)
- **James 1:20**... For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God
- Anger breeds contempt
- So what should we do if we have anger or hatred or have hurt a brother or sister? Go to them and reconcile!

James 4:1-3...

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

Who is Righteous?

1. Example #1: Anger/Contempt

2. Example #2: Lust/Strong Desire

- The righteousness of Scribes and Pharisees says as long as I don't physically commit adultery, I am righteous
- Jesus is exposing a lustful heart (this is where lust comes from)
- Our thought life matters
- What we put into our minds through our eyes matters
- Jesus emphasizes how serious and dangerous a lustful heart is by his extreme example

Who is Righteous?

1. Example #1: Anger/Contempt

2. Example #2: Lust/Strong Desire

3. Example #3: Divorce/Broken Promises

- Pharisees & Scribes righteousness was all about loop holes – finding trivial ways to divorce their wives
- Divorce brought great shame to the woman and set her up for desperate times
- Jesus does not accept the practice of easy divorce (but I say...)
- God's design was for marriage to last for life and Jesus was exposing the evil hearts of men looking for an easy way out

Who is Righteous?

1. Obedience to the commandments is not necessarily righteousness
2. True righteousness is governed by love

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Who is Righteous?

1. Obedience to the commandments is not necessarily righteousness
2. True righteousness is governed by love
3. Only Christ's righteousness will do

Who is Righteous?

“None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

¹³ Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips.

¹⁴ Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.

¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.

¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

– Romans 3:10b-18

Who is Righteous?

1. Obedience to the commandments is not necessarily righteousness

2. True righteousness is governed by love

3. Only Christ's righteousness will do

- All of us are living on borrowed righteousness so we cannot boast about our standing before God
- If you are a Christian, you have died to your old sinful self and now you live for Christ alone

Galatians 2:19-21

¹⁹ “For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”

A.W. Tozer – The Pursuit of God

“The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do.”