



THE SERMON

on the Mount

You've Heard it Said... But I Say... Part 2

The Sermon on the Mount Recap...

- Introduction to the Kingdom of God
 - The upside-down kingdom
 - The sermon is directed to his disciples, not the crowds
 - 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
 - Examples: Anger, Lust and divorce – who is righteous?
 - Jesus is in not making a new more strict law or new fence laws to mark off on your spiritual check list

Matthew 5:33-48

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

Matthew 5:33-48

⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Who is a Good Person?

1. Example #4: Manipulative Words

- Reminder: Jesus is not making a new law for us to follow
- Jesus himself makes oaths after this statement... “Truly, truly I say to you...” or “I tell you the truth...”
- Paul also makes oaths in Scripture... Gal 1:20... “In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!”
- The point: the follower of Christ has such integrity that he or she should not need to follow up their claims with an oath to those who know them – we don't use words to manipulate people into doing or believing what we want
- To the system of goodness of the Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus says... If you didn't lie so much, you wouldn't need to make oaths!
- God witnesses every word we speak

Matthew 23:16-22...

¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

Who is a Good Person?

1. Example #4: Manipulative Words

2. Example #5: Revenge

- “I don’t get mad, I get even”
- Romans 12:9... Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- Beatitudes... Blessed are the meek...
- Not a new more strict law – Jesus is challenging us to become the type of person who trusts that God sees the injustice committed against us and leaves it in his hands and who is willing to go the extra mile with those in need
- Why? Because life in the Kingdom of God is based on love

Who is a Good Person?

1. Example #4: Manipulative Words

2. Example #5: Revenge

3. Example #6: Love Your Enemies

- The sum up of the message is “love”
- Is loving one's enemies really possible?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – The Cost of Discipleship

“To the natural man, the very notion of loving his enemies is an intolerable offence, and quite beyond his capacity: it cuts right across his ideas of good and evil. More important still, to the man under the law, the idea of loving his enemies is clean contrary to the law of God, which requires men to sever all connection with their enemies and to pass judgement on them. Jesus, however, takes the law of God in his own hands and expounds its true meaning. The will of God, to which the law gives expression, is that men should defeat their enemies by loving them... his behaviour must be determined not by the way others treat him, but by the treatment he himself has received from Jesus...”

Who is a Good Person?

1. Example #4: Manipulative Words

2. Example #5: Revenge

3. Example #6: Love Your Enemies

- The sum up of the message is “love”
- Is loving one's enemies really possible?
- Jesus points out that this is how God loves and treats those who despise him – he gives them good gifts!
- The point: the disciple of Jesus is becoming the type of person who naturally begins to reflect God's perfect love
- Jesus on the cross... “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do...”
- Acts 7 (Stephen) “Lord, do not hold this sin against them”

Who is a Good Person?

1. Example #4: Manipulative Words

2. Example #5: Revenge

3. Example #6: Love Your Enemies

4. Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect

- Pharisees & Scribes goodness always falls short of perfection because there is only one Perfect One – Jesus
- We are meant to reflect his perfection when we live the life of the disciple – a life defined by love!
- Only Christ's perfection allows us access to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Who is a Good Person?

1. Our goodness doesn't measure up

- How do we judge whether someone is a good person?
- How do we determine if we're a good person or not? How do you measure your own goodness?
- All of us drift towards the goodness of the Scribes & Pharisees... We consider ourselves good because we don't do certain things and good because we do certain things

Who is a Good Person?

1. Our goodness doesn't measure up

2. Where does goodness come from?

- Luke 6:45... "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."
- Jesus has given his followers a new heart... In fact, we are a new creation!
- Our goodness comes from through faith in Christ... Christ's perfect goodness, not our behavior or obedience
- Sin avoidance is not how we define goodness!

Philippians 3:7-11

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Who is a Good Person?

1. Our goodness doesn't measure up

2. Where does goodness come from?

3. How can I be reconciled with God?

- Give your life to Jesus
- When Scripture shows us that we are in sin, we respond to God's conviction with repentance
- We do not try and gain his approval by how good we've been

Colossians 1:19-23

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the
blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated
and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now
reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to
present you holy and blameless and above reproach
before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable
and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that
you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation
under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.