



# THE SERMON

*on the Mount*

*A New Kind of Righteousness*

## 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)
  - Sermon takes place in the hills around Sea of Galilee
  - The sermon is directed to his disciples, not the crowds
- Introduction to the Kingdom of God
  - The upside-down kingdom
    - “What is truly profound is thought to be stupid and trivial, or worse, boring, while what is actually stupid and trivial is thought to be profound. That is what it means to fly upside down.”  
– Dallas Willard (The Divine Conspiracy)
  - The Beatitudes
  - Salt, Light & City on a Hill... New kingdom life gets noticed!

## Matthew 5:17-20

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## The New Kingdom Righteousness

### 1. The Fulfillment of the Law & Prophets

- The entire OT points to Jesus – he is the fulfillment of it both in its predictions and sacrificial system
- The gospel of the new kingdom is not intended to destroy the old, but rather fulfills it
- The old covenant required the sacrifice of animals to pay for the sins of the people, but we know that this was not enough (Heb 10:4... “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”)
- Jesus will eventually fulfill all the requirements of the law for the forgiveness of sin – closing the gap between a perfect and holy God and sinful people as well as all the righteous works needed for salvation



## **The New Kingdom Righteousness**

### **1. The Fulfillment of the Law & Prophets**

### **2. The Bible Outlasts its Critics**

- The OT is still authoritative Scripture, but now is to be interpreted in light of Jesus fulfilling it
- The Bible has been under attack for millennia
- People today are still trying very hard to get rid of God's testimony about himself
- Jesus promises that the Bible will be here until the very end

## **The New Kingdom Righteousness**

### **1. The Fulfillment of the Law & Prophets**

### **2. The Bible Outlasts its Critics**

### **3. A New Kind of Righteousness**

- Pharisees & Scribes... religious all-stars of the day
- Jesus is painting an impossible picture – who could possibly be more righteous than the most righteous?
- Jesus is setting his listeners up to hear how the New Kingdom relates to the Law.
  - Beatitudes... Who is blessed?
  - New kingdom righteousness... Who is righteous?
- Jesus' main point will be that purely external obedience to the law is not true righteousness as God is more concerned with our motivations than our behaviour

## What impact does this have on us today?

### 1. We can Trust the Bible

- God has preserved for us his revelation of himself and how we are to live in what we know is the Bible
- Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies and the entire law – including him being the sacrificial lamb needed for the forgiveness of our sins
- Get to know it!

## Psalm 19:7-11

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.



## **What impact does this have on us today?**

### **1. We can Trust the Bible**

### **2. Jesus is Our King, not Our Life Coach**

- Watch out for treating Jesus like he has some pretty good suggestions for how to live life – he's our king not our life coach!
- We are expected to live the way he shows us and tells us – this means we look to put into practice what he says

## What impact does this have on us today?

**1. We can Trust the Bible**

**2. Jesus is Our King, not Our Life Coach**

**3. Jesus is Our Righteousness**

- Great news!
- 2 motivational systems
  1. Scribes & Pharisees: I obey, therefore I'm accepted
  2. The Gospel: I'm accepted, therefore I obey
- The consequences of these 2 motivational systems are monumental to how you approach your faith and how you deal with life and what it throws at you