

“But I say...”

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MATTHEW 5-7



LIVINGHOPE

baptist church

*Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to
His abundant mercy
has begotten us again to a
Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Community Group Purpose Statement

We, as smaller gatherings of one family, will practice with our lives the gospel truths that we confess with our mouths. Together, we will allow our lives to be challenged by the gospel and one another; we will live lives of boldness and purpose. As we walk in the light of the gospel, we will point to the grace of God and its power to set lives free from sin and death. We will continue praying, teaching, making disciples, and bearing one another's burdens. Following the pattern set before us by Jesus, we will bring joy to our family (the church) and glory to his name.

What is a Community Group?

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Living Hope Baptist Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

Why Should I Join a Community Group?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

“But I say...”

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MATTHEW 5-7

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The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew chapters 5-7

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Sermon on the Mount is delivered to His disciples against the backdrop of his coming kingdom. John the Baptist had already declared, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt. 3:2) Jesus also declared that same message in Matt. 4:17. Jesus is the king and the kingdom belongs to Him. Throughout this sermon Jesus exposes the darkness of the religion of men, contrasts their teachings with His own, and digs down deep into the human heart exposing the fallacy of outward religion as compared to a supernatural change of the heart. The truths that Jesus teaches will challenge the heart of every believer as the reality sets in of the impossibility of obeying completely His commands without His divine help. However, even in our imperfect state, a life lived by these principles will prove to be the blessed life. These truths when lived out under the grace of God should cause the child of God to shine in a dark world desperate for the light of God’s salvation. The Sermon on the Mount portrays for us Jesus Himself as well as how a child of the King will live in every generation shining God’s kingdom in his or her own heart.

CHAPTER 1

“But I say...”

Matthew 5-7

SUMMARY

In **Matthew 4:17** we are told that *"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"* This kingdom Jesus is speaking of belongs to Him and He is its King. Before we begin going through Jesus' sermon, it would be good to remind ourselves of Jesus right to rule and reign in our lives and our desire to follow His rule from our hearts.

OBSERVATION

1. What does **Matthew 28:18** tell us about what Jesus possesses?
2. How does **Luke 17:20-21** and **Romans 14:17** show that today God's kingdom is not a political overthrow but is manifested somewhere else? Where is God's kingdom seen at?
3. What promise is given to God's children in **Colossians 1:13** concerning kingdoms?

4. Where is the believer's citizenship located? See **Philippians 3:20**.

5. According to **John 1:12**, believers are not only citizens of heaven, but what else does God make them?

6. Look up the following verses in **Matthew 5** and write down a similar phrase that you see repeated in each verse:

Matt. 5:21 –

Matt. 5:27 –

Matt. 5:31 –

Matt. 5:33 –

Matt. 5:38 –

Matt. 5:43 –

APPLICATION

1. When you read **Colossians 1:18** you see that Jesus is to have first place in every aspect of our lives: In what ways can you fulfill that in the following areas:

a. The Home:

b. Your Place of Employment:

c. Your Finances:

d. Your Talents & Gifts:

e. Your Attitude:

f. Your Possessions:

g. The Needs of Others

h. Your Church:

i. Your body (**1 Cor. 6:19, 20**)

2. God's kingdom has come to the believer's heart as their present possession but what reality does **Romans 7:21-25** cause us to embrace? How does being aware of this struggle and battle help prepare you for it? Be prepared to share with your group your experiences with this battle that Paul shared.

PRAYER

CHAPTER 2

Blessed are the Needy

Matthew 5:1-5

SUMMARY

Jesus gathers His disciples and begins to declare to them divine pronouncements related to His kingdom. Kingdom life and a blessed life are presented to Jesus disciples in a series of truths that “describe the heart, mind, outlook, and values of a disciple.” These beatitudes are not given so a person can earn happiness or the blessed life. These realities are reserved for believers, for those who have partaken in the divine nature of God through the new birth. These characteristics Jesus speaks of are opposite of what the world teaches and will seem foolish to anyone not belonging to His kingdom. While a believer does not earn these qualities he or she is a willing disciple, believing these truths and valuing what His Master values, and will indeed experience the blessed life. This first lesson will cover the first three which might be labeled, “Blessed are the Needy.”

QUESTIONS

1. These beatitudes are a description of the whole person, not just random statements. More importantly, they describe a citizen of the kingdom but they also describe the King. Jesus possessed all these qualities except being “poor in spirit.” Match the corresponding verse about Jesus with the correct beatitude.

BEATITUDE

Mourn

Meek

Hunger & Thirst for

Righteousness

Merciful

Pure in Heart

Peacemakers

Persecuted

JESUS

John 14:27

Matthew 23:37

Isaiah 53:4

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 3:15

Matthew 9:36

Matthew 26:59-60

APPLICATION

1. Jesus repeats the word "blessed" 9 times in the first 11 verses. The word blessed can be translated "happy". It means when God extends His benefits or the advantages he confers. Can you identify anything that robs your "happiness?"

2. True blessedness and happiness "is not a superficial feeling based on circumstances but rather a deep supernatural experience of contentedness based on the fact that one's life is right with God." Most all of us would agree with that definition, but as you look at your struggles, what would you say your "real" definition of happiness is based on your life and your thinking?

3. As a child of God He supernaturally enabled you to see your absolute poverty of soul and turn to Him for your only hope. However, pride is an ugly sin that we will fight until the very end. In the strengths and talents and gifts God has given to you, how does a humble spirit keep those in a proper perspective?

4. Most of us have mourned over the loss of a loved one and have experienced that deep pain. It is something we want to avoid. But spiritual mourning over our sins and the sins of others is an essential part of kingdom living. Do you ever mourn over your sins and the sins of our world? Why or why not? What is the promise for those who mourn?

5. The mark of meekness is “not the absence of assertiveness, but rather the absence of self-assertion.” How have you seen yourself put yourself first? What is the promise to the meek?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 3

The Actions of the Blessed Needy

Matthew 5:6-9

SUMMARY

An amazing thing happens to those who are poor in spirit, mourn over their sin and the sins of the world, and display a meek spirit by dying to self daily – they hunger and thirst after righteousness. The blessed life is not a life where the child of God sits back and does nothing. The child of God is actively involved in his faith but earns nothing from God. God graciously gives to his child as they pursue His kingdom. The actions that follow hungering and thirsting after righteousness are a merciful heart, a pure heart, and a desire to make peace.

OBSERVATION

1. Isaiah 55:2 – *“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?”* Why do people hunger and thirst for these things?

2. Jeremiah 2:13 - *“for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”* According to this verse, what have the people done and what is the result?

3. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What is the lesson concerning mercy that this passage teaches?

4. Read Matthew 23:23. How would you describe a "religious" person who forsakes these matters of the heart? Picture a person who goes to church faithfully, looks good on the outside, yet forsakes mercy.

5. How does **Matthew 10:34-39** show that being a peacemaker is not seeking peace at any price? Example: "Ok, I'll stop teaching that Jesus was God since you don't believe it so that we can get along."

APPLICATION

Examine the following questions related to each of the following characteristics of a citizen of God's kingdom and a child of the King.

- a.** In one word, how would you evaluate your overall participation related to this characteristic?
- b.** Where do you struggle the most in this characteristic?
- c.** What would you say the heart problem is related to your struggle in this characteristic?
- d.** What can you do to be more of an active follower of your King in this characteristic?

1. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

2. Merciful

3. Pure in Heart

4. Peacemaking

PRAYER

CHAPTER 4

The Guarantee of a Blessed Life

Part 1

Matthew 5:10-12

SUMMARY

Flowing from the previous statements of a blessed life in the kingdom of Jesus is a most amazing declaration by Jesus. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness and on my account.” No one would ever think that persecution could be associated with the blessed life. This lesson will examine this statement of Jesus which clarifies for us how persecution is indeed a part of the kingdom and indeed a part of a blessed life.

OBSERVATION

1. According to **Mark 4:16,17** what happens that causes the person who claims to know Jesus walk away from all they said they believed?

2. In **Matthew 5:10-12**, what two reasons does Jesus give that will bring suffering and persecution?

3. Answer the following questions from **1 Peter 4**:

a. What is the believer not supposed to do and think when persecution comes? (**verse 12**)

b. What is the privilege in suffering? (**verse 13**)

c. Why is the Christian blessed and what will they experience in persecution? (**verse 14**)

d. What are two types of suffering? (**verses 15,16**)

e. What are the two different outcomes? (**verses 17,18**)

f. What does the persecuted believer do? (**verse 19**)

APPLICATION

1. What is your initial reaction when you read that we may do almost everything right and yet the only result may be opposition and suffering?

2. Why may it be tempting to hide this truth of persecution and suffering when sharing Christ to the lost or even for preachers preaching to their congregations?

3. Believers can struggle and attempt to avoid persecution. In what ways do we sometimes act or don't act in order to avoid any kind of persecution?

4. Look at Peter and the disciple's desire found in **Matthew 26:35**. Now read **verses 69-75**. What was going on in Peter's heart and mind that was the root cause of this failure? In what ways can you personally identify with Peter?

5. It is clear that gladness and rejoicing in persecution comes from an eternal mind set ordering our lives for heaven and not for earth. In what ways are you convicted that the "now" has taken the place of "heaven" in importance and perspective in your life?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 5

The Guarantee of a Blessed Life

Part 2

Matthew 5:13-16

SUMMARY

Flowing from the previous statements of a blessed life in the kingdom of Jesus is another amazing declaration by Jesus. His followers are “salt” and “light” and are called to be a preserving and life changing influence in the world. This is a statement of fact, not a statement that we should be salt and light. Of course, there is a danger that we fail to act according to our identity. Our testimony may be trampled and our light may be hidden. However, a kingdom follower who is following the previous beatitudes will be salt and light and will be a powerful spiritual influence on those around them. Just as God changed their heart, He can use them to be a part of the supernatural heart change of others. “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.

OBSERVATION

1. What is the difference between Jesus saying, “You should be salt and you should be light,” and “You are salt and you are light.”?
2. What are the two dangers of the child of God not living according to his identity as seen in **verse 13** and in **verses 14, 15**?
3. What does the phrase “in the same way” refer to in **verse 16**?

4. What can happen to someone outside the kingdom by observing our life? (**verse 16**)

APPLICATION

1. *"If we're not careful we will deceive ourselves into mistaking the presence of physical bodies in a building for the existence of spiritual life in a church."*
David Platt.

How does what Jesus teaches in **Matthew 5:13 & 14** about each member of the body of Christ being salt and light relate to the statement above?

2. *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* Jesus

How does what Jesus teaches in **Matthew 5:13,14** about each member of the body of Christ being salt and light relate to the statement above? What does the world think when Christians complain, gossip, and attack one another?

3. As you examine your life as a believer and as being made salt and light to the world where God placed you: (Marriage, family, neighborhood, workplace; clubs, organizations, etc...), what areas has God convicted you where your actions are failing to meet with your identity?

4. Why and how is the future of our church and any church directly related to **verse 16**?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 6

Jesus - From Genesis to Revelation, God's Provision to Escape the Eternal Never

Matthew 5:17-20

SUMMARY

Many people would have naturally been wondering about Jesus and His views related to the Law. Had He come to replace the law? This would be on the minds of many. Before Jesus clarifies their opinion of God’s law, what they thought it said, it had to establish where He stood in relation to it. Jesus emphatically states that He did not come to abolish the Law but rather He came to fulfill it and indeed it will be accomplished completely. Because of His great ministry in fulfilling the law, His followers may truly enter the Kingdom of Heaven through Him and Him alone. Without His righteousness no one will enter the Kingdom, not even those who are esteemed the highest among them. How a person views His teaching will determine where God ranks them in His kingdom – either the least or great. Those who totally reject His teachings and seek after their own righteousness will never enter His kingdom.

OBSERVATION

1. Because of the teachings of Jesus and His battles with the Scribes and Pharisees, what would many people think about where He stood in relation to the Old Testament Scriptures?

2. How does Jesus clarify His position in **Matthew 5:17**?

3. How is Jesus connected to the Law or the Prophets? See also **Luke 24:27, 44-47; John 5:39**.

4. What guarantee does Jesus give in **Matthew 5:18**?

5. In **verses 19** and **20**, how does Jesus clarify different positions in the kingdom and related to the kingdom?

6. In relation to God's Kingdom, what is it that makes a person:

a. Great?

b. Least?

c. Never Enter?

APPLICATION

1. What would you say to a person who says that reading the Old Testament is not needed?

2. What promise is it to you that Jesus fulfilled the law? See **Galatians 3:10-14**.

3. Jesus clearly “ranks” his followers in His kingdom based on their view and commitment to His words. Both “least” and “great” belong to His kingdom. Based on this, consider the following questions:

a. Do you ever find yourself picking and choosing between God’s Word like a lunch buffet? How would Jesus evaluate that?

b. How does the time and energy you personally devote to God’s Word reflect your commitment? How would Jesus evaluate that?

c. Are you a person of lists and do’s and don’ts yet fail to incorporate love for your King in your obedience? How would Jesus evaluate that?

d. What are you teaching others with our life and your words based on your devotion to God’s Word? How would Jesus evaluate that?

4. How is **Matthew 5:20** a wonderful shocking statement to the listeners of Jesus and us today?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 7

Me, a Murderer?

Matthew 5:21-26

SUMMARY

Jesus now begins to clarify what the Jewish Scriptures had really said all along. He confirms the truth of the commands, yet He shows that the matter of the heart can not be neglected. His first topic in the remaining verses of chapter 5 is anger and murder. He confirms the Old Testament command and He also forbids any inner attitudes of anger and hate, making these, in His sight, equal to the actual act of murder. Without dealing with these crucial heart issues, a person's worship is worthless and empty.

OBSERVATION

1. According to **Romans 1:29**, what sin, related to our topic in our study today, is a natural occurrence in people who reject God and in people that God rejects?
2. Related to our study today, who will not enter into heaven? See **Revelation 22:15**. In God's view, would this be those who actually physically kill someone or those who are sinfully angry with others, or both?
3. In **1 John 3:15**, what characteristic is not practiced in the life of a believer? (Though a believer can have times of failure)

4. What does James say is the reason for not cursing another person?
See **James 3:9**

5. A person may blame another person or a situation or a number of things for their evil actions, but what does Jesus say is the source of these sins? See **Matthew 15:19, 20a**

6. Who does **John 8:44** say is the instigator of murder and evil?

APPLICATION

1. **Ephesians 4:26** tells us that there is a righteous anger that does not sin, but even that anger or any anger must be dealt with quickly. The danger is seen in **verse 27**, "and give no opportunity to the devil."

a. What are some things that should cause the believer to be angry?

b. In those things that we should be angry at, what can we do to not allow the devil to use them in our lives? (be sure to look at **verse 26**)

2. From this passage, have you been made aware that you use derogatory words towards people? Which ones come to mind that you use the most, and what occasions bring that out in you?

3. It is easy for us to dress up on the outside and look like all is well, but as Jesus has opened up the deep ocean of our heart with this topic, what have you discovered about your heart?

4. What is the remedy for what you have discovered about your heart?

5. Can you identify a person or persons where you truly struggle with anger, a form of murder in God's eyes, and will you seek God's help to apply the grace and mercy He has shown to you? If you are able, please share with your group.

PRAYER

CHAPTER 8

Me, an Adulterer?

Matthew 5:27-32

SUMMARY

Jesus now begins to clarify what the Jewish Scriptures had really said all along. He confirms the truth of the commands, yet He shows that the matter of the heart can not be neglected. His second topic deals with adultery and sexual sin. Once again, Jesus shows the importance of the heart and that from the heart man sins. One may boast and feel confident in his own righteousness because he or she has never physically sinned in this way, but Jesus shows that the heart of lust is worthy of judgment even if the act is never committed. This should draw all to Jesus for His righteousness rather than their own.

OBSERVATION

1. What clarification in **verse 28** does Jesus make concerning the command in **verse 27**?
2. What is going on in the person's mind as described in **verse 28**? What is he or she hoping for?
3. What does Jesus call it, even if it never is played out or even before it is physically carried out? (**verse 28**)

4. As you read **verses 29, 30**, how important is this topic to Jesus? Give a reason for your answer.

5. What is the tragic result of a lustful heart that Jesus mentions in **verses 31,32**?

APPLICATION

1. Eve “saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes’ (**Gen. 3:6**). David “saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful (**2 Sam. 11:2**). Achan confessed, “when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them.” (**Josh. 7:21**) Job, knowing the danger of a lustful eye said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? (**Job 31:1**) John tells us that “the (sinful) desires of the eyes are not from the father but is from the world.” (**1 Jn. 2:16**).

Answer the following questions:

a. Why is the “eye” so powerful?

b. What does the “eye” activate?

c. What protection can we give our eyes?

d. With our eyes and our hearts working together so closely, what should our prayers sound like?

2. Is it wrong to notice a woman or a man? In what way could it be wrong and what should be done if one notices their heart and eye working together in a sinful way?

3. What are some practical things that can be done to “cut off and throw away” in dealing with temptations to sexual sin?

4. What are some practical things husbands and wives can do to be a help in this area for one another?

5. Why is sex not to be worshipped? If it is worshipped, what would God call that?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 9

Me, a Liar?

Matthew 5:33-37

SUMMARY

Jesus now begins to clarify what the Jewish Scriptures had really said all along. He confirms the truth of the commands, yet He shows that the matter of the heart can not be neglected. His third topic deals with swearing oaths with a deceitful heart. Jesus condemns the practice of the religious leaders and states that His followers should lead a life where there is no need to swear or call on a higher witness to prove their words. Whether they say yes or no, it is believed because of the integrity of their lives. Once again this shatters the “righteousness of the Pharisees” as Jesus exposes their sinful ways. It also calls for the righteousness of another, namely Jesus.

OBSERVATION

1. What is God’s view concerning lying? See **Proverbs 6:16-19**.
2. What does the Lord delight in? See **Proverbs 12:22**
3. What is one goal of a lying tongue and what is the result? See **Proverbs. 21:6**
4. What is the goal of a lying tongue in **Proverbs 24:28,29**?

5. What should a righteous man hate? See **Proverbs. 13:5**

6. What reason does Paul state in **Ephesians 4:25** for members of the body of Christ to not lie to one another?

APPLICATION

1. What "guarantees" do you have as a child of God because God cannot lie and does not lie?

2. What happens to your thinking toward someone who repeatedly lies to you? What is going on in this person's heart and life which is prompting the lying?

3. How is exaggeration a form of lying? Why do we exaggerate?
4. How is withholding key information a form of lying? What information might we withhold?
5. **Matthew 15:19** states that evil thoughts and false witness comes from within the heart. What is going on inside our hearts when we lie or bear false witness? Why does lying seem to go alongside with many other sins?
6. Why is lying one of the most dangerous sins?
7. How is this a form of lying? Husband or wife comes home and is throwing things around, huffing and puffing, and goes into the bathroom after slamming the door. You ask, "What's wrong?" The answer behind the door is, "nothing"! What's the danger with this kind of falsehood?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 10

Me, a Son of the Father?

Matthew 5:38-48

SUMMARY

Jesus now begins to clarify what the Jewish Scriptures had really said all along. He confirms the truth of the commands, yet He shows that the matter of the heart can not be neglected. His last topic in this section of “You have heard it said but I say to you”, involves retaliation and loving your enemy. Jesus shows that in our daily lives, living among enemies and even oppression from government, that the child of the Father is required to act and respond in ways that please Him. The child of God’s desire is to bring God glory by pleasing Him, and living a life that shines as being so radically different from the world, that some will see and be saved. Jesus closes this section with a call to perfection that is equal to the Father. This is positionally possible through the imputed righteousness of Christ, and practically possible through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. The child of the Father knows he or she will never attain practical perfection in this life, but the direction of their life is pointed in that direction, and in this the Father is pleased.

OBSERVATION

1. How is “an eye for an eye”, really a blessing for a criminal?
2. It is clear that the Pharisees had misinterpreted this command and used it in personal relationships and daily living. What do you think they were doing for Jesus to highlight and clarify this command?

3. Read Romans 13:1-7. Write down a list from these verses what a governing power, (not individuals on their own) is responsible for.

4. What was left out and added in what Jesus said that they "heard it was said", in **verse 43**? (See **Lev. 19:18** for what was left out.)

Left Out:

Added:

5. What two requirements does Jesus give related to our enemies?

1.

2.

6. How can one be "perfect" as God the Father is perfect?

APPLICATION

1. We are told to not stand against one who does us evil. As you read **verses 39-42**, what is the normal reaction of your heart as you have lived through similar things?

2. How do you know you are not loving your enemy?

3. Have you ever found it difficult to pray for someone who has hurt you in some way? Why would Jesus ask us to pray for our enemy?

4. Jesus gave an illustration of what might be called “normal” love in **verses 46, 47**. In what way does this convict you and challenge you to change?

5. What is in our heart that fights against us from loving in the way Jesus tells us to love?

6. Read **1 Peter 2:20-25**. How does Christ's example encourage you?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 11

The Tragedy of Playing a Part

Matthew 6:1-4

SUMMARY

Beginning in chapter 6 the sermon begins to speak to the subject of what the follower of Christ does and why they should do it. Jesus discusses three main areas of importance in Jewish religious life: Giving, Praying, and Fasting. Jesus emphasizes that these are being carried out but with the wrong audience in view. Instead of a genuine desire to please and glorify God, they are practicing these things to bring glory to themselves. The tragic result is only earthly temporal reward and the forfeiting of an eternal reward with the Father. Unbelievers who find themselves practicing such false outward religion need to see they are worshipping themselves and rejecting God. Believers need to constantly fight the temptation for self-exaltation and serve God because He is worthy trusting that He does see and He will reward by His grace.

OBSERVATION

1. What is the motive of the person whose spiritual giving is mentioned in **verses 1-4**?
2. Who knows our motives even if we look good to others?
3. What is the reward received by those who are motivated by the praise of others? (**verse 2**)

4. What's the danger of dwelling on your good deeds and rehearsing them in your mind? **(verse 3)**

5. What's the proper way to give and what is the promise from the Father? **(verse 4)**

APPLICATION

1. **John 12:43** – "For they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God." What is in your heart if you desire to be praised by others?

2. If we desire others to know all that we do in the service of God, what does that tell us about who we are really serving?

3. In what ways do we try and make sure others know what we have given or what we have done?

4. What would be a good test that would reveal to you if you are serving with the right motives?

5. How is this truth Jesus taught a good test to see if we truly belong to Jesus as His disciple? What should be a warning signal to us that maybe we are not God's child?

6. How does the principle Jesus taught in this passage encourage you to focus on the kingdom to come rather than on the here and now?

7. Would you say you truly desire eternal reward in the future over temporal reward right now? What kind of struggle is that for you?

8. How is it encouraging to know that the Father sees and has promised that He will not forget your labor of love for Him when others have no idea what you giving or doing for the kingdom?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 12

Authentic Praying

Matthew 6:5-15

SUMMARY

Jesus is continuing to challenge His listeners with authentic kingdom living as opposed to religious activity done in order to be praised and seen by others. His second topic is prayer. Authentic praying is praying to the Father for His kingdom, His will, His provisions, His mercy, and His protection from evil. Jesus urges His listeners to pray in secret and not for the praise of man. Those who pray with right motives will be rewarded while those who seek the glory of man will not. The content of our prayers is a great indicator of our spiritual condition whether we are genuine or not. Jesus gives a pattern to pray, not to be repeated mindlessly, but rather to show us what our prayers should consist of.

OBSERVATION

1. Why did the hypocrites pray? See **verse 5**
2. What differences do you see in **verse 6** from **verse 5**?
3. What other wrong way does Jesus expose in **verse 7**?

4. Draw a line to the correct answer

Our Father

Guide / Pilgrim

Hallowed be Thy Name

Sovereign / Subject

Thy kingdom come

Benefactor / Beneficiary

Thy will be done

Savior / Sinner

Give daily bread

Father / Child

Forgive our debts

Master / Servant

Lead us not into

Deity / Worshipper

APPLICATION

1. Why do you think we don't pray or we don't pray as we ought to?

2. As you look at the teaching of Jesus concerning prayer, would you agree with this statement, and if so, why? “Prayer is not a matter of technique, but of relationship.”

3. If we are finding it difficult to pray, what are the possible reasons for this?

4. We are not to pray to be seen by others but it is not wrong to pray in public. What are some reasons why we may fear to pray in public? How can we overcome this fear?

5. **Verse 8** tells us that the Father knows what we need already so there is no need to try any “gimmicks” to get His attention. What insights about prayer does this truth reveal?

6. Which of the following dominates your prayer life? What does this reveal to you about your prayer life?

Sick People ____

Money ____

Praise / Worship ____

Things ____

Mourning over Your sin ____

Special Needs ____

Unsaved ____

Believers ____

Family ____

Nation ____

PRAYER

CHAPTER 13

Your Treasure? *Part 1*

Matthew 6:16-24

SUMMARY

Jesus is continuing with His theme of hypocrisy that is seen in giving, praying, and fasting. All of these topics reveal the genuineness of a person's faith and the struggles when one's faith is genuine. They truly answer the question: What or who is our greatest treasure? In part one of "Your Treasure?", we will examine the spiritual aspect of fasting; what it is, what it exposes, what it accomplishes, and what the proper motive for fasting consists of.

OBSERVATION

1. What sinful motive is Jesus exposing in **Matt. 6:16**?
2. How would you summarize what Jesus taught in **Matt. 6:17,18**?

APPLICATION

1. Have you ever fasted for spiritual reasons?
2. Would you say this is new to you and in your experience as a believer you have rarely heard it taught or encouraged?

3. Normally, when you hear of someone fasting or see it on the news, what is it associated with?

4. Read the following Scripture references and write down what was the occasion of the fast and what was going on in the heart of the ones fasting.

a. 2 Samuel 12:16-18

b. Esther 4:13-16

c. 2 Chronicles 20:1-4

d. Matthew 4:1,2

e. Acts 13:2,3

Are there times in your life where you can relate to similar situations? Would you say that you stress and worry and fret more than giving up something in order to go into the closet and pray?

5. What does a time of fasting and praying reveal to us about our heart, our weaknesses, our failures, our sin, our lack of faith, and about our great and mighty God? (How can the desire for food be an illustration for a lack of desire for God?)

6. None of us enjoys pain and heartache but all of us to one degree or another will attempt to get rid of it. Can you identify what it is in your life that you do in an attempt to feel good and take away the pain you may be experiencing rather than praying or fasting and praying?

7. It is good for every believer to constantly examine what might be more important to them than Jesus. (“Your Treasure.”) For some it is food, or acceptance, or money, or etc... has the Holy Spirit revealed to you anything that is attempting to take the rightful place of Jesus in your heart?

8. How would your prayer life truly reveal to you where you are spiritually right now in your relationship with the Lord?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 14

Your Treasure? *Part 2*

Matthew 6:19-24

SUMMARY

Fasting and praying draws us to our greatest treasure. However, possessions and the things of this earth compete against our greatest treasure. Jesus.

OBSERVATION

1. What are the three contrasts that Jesus brings up in this passage?

a. (verses 19, 20)

b. (verses 22, 23)

c. (verse 24)

2. How does a person know where their heart truly is? (verse 21)

APPLICATION

1. Can you identify anything that means more to you than it should?

2. How do you know something means more to you than it should?
3. What are some "treasures" that we can store in heaven?
4. How can our eyes be light and have a single minded devotion in everything we do?
5. If Jesus today told you who your master truly is in your life – What would He say?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 15

The Answer for Anxiety

Matthew 6:25-34

SUMMARY

Jesus addresses the topic of anxiety and worry over life. His answer to worry is to seek God's kingdom and trust God that He will provide all that is needed. The child of God can say, "I will seek God with all my being knowing that He will take care of me."

OBSERVATION

1. What three exact phrases are repeated in **verses 25, 31, and 34**?
2. How would you summarize what Jesus says not to worry about in those verses?
3. What does Jesus command His followers to look at as an example of His ability to take care of them? **(26,28)**

APPLICATION

1. **Read verse 27.** What does this tell you about yourself and worry?

2. **Read verse 30.** According to this verse, why do you worry?

3. What do you worry about the most?

4. What's the difference between worry and proper concern? How do you know which one you are doing?

5. **Read verses 32 & 33.** The normal human reaction to stress and difficulties is to panic, shut down, stop serving God, stop coming to church, and to pour all your energy into worrying. How is the command of Jesus different?

6. How is knowing that God has already been to tomorrow an encouragement to you?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 16

A Family Where Gospel Grace Abounds

Matthew 7:1-6

SUMMARY

It is clear from this passage that God's idea of His kingdom and His church is not an impersonal gathering where people just show up once a week, do their duty, and go their separate ways. It is designed to be an intimate gathering where people examine their own sins, know one another, pray for one another, share with one another, warn one another, and love one another.

OBSERVATION

1. According to **Matt. 7:1**, what can the critical, fault finding believer expect?
2. What is our natural tendency as stated in **Matthew 7:3**?
3. What is an absolute necessity before helping our brother or sister with their sin? **See Matt. 7:5**

APPLICATION

1. Are there any specific areas where you struggle in having a critical and fault finding attitude?

2. What is your normal reaction when someone brings up a sin or a fault with you? Why do you think you respond that way?

3. Our natural tendency is to not see our own sin but recognize easily the sins of others. What can we do to recognize our own sins which we can so easily be blinded?

4. Can you picture yourself actually going to someone in order to help them with their sin? Why or why not?

5. Would you say you keep yourself "distant" from others, putting walls up so others don't get too close? What does this passage say to you if this is true with you?

PRAYER

CHAPTER 17

The Burning Passion of Jesus

Matthew 7:7-29

SUMMARY

Jesus finishes His sermon on the mount with a heart of passion emphasizing to his listeners that they must make a choice. He presents these choices using the metaphors of two roads, two trees, two confessions, and two foundations. The result of the right choice is life, while the result of the wrong choice is eternal judgment.

OBSERVATION

1. What four contrasts about the two roads do you see in **Matt. 7:13,14**?

- a. It's size _____ & _____
- b. Level of difficulty _____ & _____
- c. Population _____ & _____
- d. Results _____ & _____

2. How do you recognize a false prophet? (**7:15-20**)

3. Both confessions are accompanied by works. What reveals the false confession? **See verses 21-23?**

4. In **verses 24-27**, what proves the person's salvation is real?

APPLICATION

1. The Christian life is not an easy life and the message Jesus preached is beyond all of us to keep completely. As you read **Matt. 7:7-11**, how can you apply this to your life related to the teachings of Jesus we have been studying?

2. Are you saved? How do you know based on what Jesus taught in **verses 7-27**?

3. How does who you listen to reveal your heart? See **verses 15-20**

4. Jesus showed great passion for the souls of people. How can we be like Him in the lives of those God has put around us?

PRAYER

PRAYER NEEDS

PRAYER NEEDS



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