

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

KINGDOM OF GOD PRESENTED

Matthew 5:1—7:29; Luke 6:17-49



BIBLE VERSE

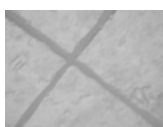
COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Matthew 5:16

...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.



October 2, 2011



STORY LESSON

BIBLE STORY

Imagine a world where love, holiness, and justice were the primary characteristics of society rather than cruelty, hatred, and violence. Think about what life would be like if everyone chose to love, be kind, exhibit gentleness and goodness, think about others before themselves, and forgive immediately. Is this kind of life possible? "Yes!" Jesus says, "Yes! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 4:17).



The economy of God is the antithesis to the economy of this world. You know those people who are poor in spirit, the ones you write off? ...the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Those mourners... they will be comforted. The meek? ...they will inherit the earth. Exactly the opposite the way people thought things were. For you see, in the economy of God, the last will be first and the first will be last. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, will be filled and no longer hungry. The ones who are merciful, let others go before themselves, they will be shown the very thing they exhibited—mercy. The pure in heart (the ones people walk on) will see God. And so on and so on. Perhaps in our community we might hear: Blessed is the Native American for they shall dance before The Great Spirit.

Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God and its nearness to our hearts and lives. He went up on a mountainside and sat down and he began to teach his disciples. This has

become known as the Sermon on the Mount. It is one of Jesus' few sermons that he spoke. In his teachings about the economy of God, he turned the world he lived in upside down. The things Jesus talked about and referred to had dangerous implications: "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).

The people who lived during the time of Jesus took the law seriously. They thought that by keeping the "letter of the law", doing everything just right, then God would send them a deliverer (just like Moses) to kick the ugly, nasty Romans out of their land. Other people thought that by taking matters into their own hands was the answer—violence. Still others thought that by removing themselves from society and practicing the non-conformity to the pagans, the deliverer would come. So one can see that when Jesus came preaching good news to the poor, non-violence, and the "spirit of the law", he made enemies on many sides. No wonder they all wanted to kill him in the end.

The Sermon on the Mount contains many amazing truths and lessons regarding how things work and operate in God's economy. Things like turning the other cheek when you are struck; loving your enemies; being a light to the world, shining it upon a hill and not under a bowl; praying, fasting, and giving in secret so as not to proclaim it before other people but only to the Father who sees all; not worrying about the things of this life, but storing for yourselves treasures in heaven. Jesus' teaching in these three chapters is bottomless in its clarity and yet depth of wisdom. One could meditate in this section of Scripture for years and still mine amazing truths about the kind of world that God desires for his people.

Jesus concludes his sermon with a memorable illustration and warning:

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house, and it fell with a great crash" (Matthew 7:24-27)

Remember to build on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and no other.



LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

There are too many applicational elements to count, however here are a few you could cover:

Forgiveness

Prayer

Be Salt and Light

Mercy

Fasting

Go the Second Mile

Turn the Other Cheek

Giving Sacrificially

Let Your "Yes" be "Yes"

Love Your Enemies

Store Treasures in Heaven

Don't Worry



QUESTIONS

REMEMBERING

- 1. What did Jesus tell us we are supposed to do to our enemies?** Love them
- 2. What kind of house does a wise man build?** A wise man builds a house on a rock, which holds firm
- 3. What kind of house does a foolish man build?** A foolish man builds a house on the sand, which washes away
- 4. What was the MAIN POINT of Jesus' sermon?** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (or near)!"
- 5. How should we (today) respond to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?**



COLORING SHEET

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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