

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Sermon on the Mount: Overview

Last time...Jesus Christ chose His Disciples, the Apostles the Father gave Him

This time...Jesus heals the multitude again and gathers them to teach them –
the Sermon on the Mount

We will be in the Gospels of Luke and Matt...starting in Luke 6:17

Luke 6:17--19

v17-19 came down with them...a great multitude:

As we read our Bibles carefully, because this passage sounds repetitious,
Jesus Christ is coming down from the mountain He went up (last week)
in v12 and Mark 3:13

And He comes down with...the Twelve Apostles

The multitude of Jews and Gentiles
that had gathered from all points of the compass to see and hear Him,
and to be healed by Him,
is still there by the Sea of Galilee

Jesus heals all who come to Him...Round 2

Putting the Scripture together:

1. Before choosing the Twelve
Mark 3:7-12
Matt 12:15-21
2. Choosing the Twelve
to be with Him
to preach the Gospel
to have His power over illnesses and unclean spirits
to be eyewitnesses of His resurrection (bodily)
Luke 6:13-16
Mark 3:13-19
3. After choosing the Twelve
Luke 6:17-19
Not recorded in either Mark or Matt

Matt 5:1-2

v1-2 sat down...taught:

The disciples and the multitude are now gathered – they are about to hear the most amazing teaching, the Sermon on the Mount

Scene: Mount of Beatitudes

Unnamed, therefore, which mountain is uncertain

Traditionally believed to be on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee

[pics]

It forms a natural amphitheater with amazing acoustics

Jesus could easily be heard by thousands in a time before
microphones and amplifiers

btw...all these things we read and are studying in the Life and Ministry of
Jesus Christ (the 4 Gospels), are they fictional? Mystical?

No, they are ALL real – real places, real people, real historical events
involved in the Creator God's Plan of Redemption for fallen man

1 Cor 2:2...and risen, bodily

Jesus sat down to teach, in accordance with the Jewish custom

What Jesus has to say now is certainly among His most important teachings:

The Kingdom of God

The Principles (Constitution/Law) of the Kingdom of God – Love
(Gal 6:2)

The Boundaries of the Kingdom of God – Righteousness

God's worldview/philosophy/culture – moral, social foundation of how a
people thinks and acts

- the right relationship with God (Table 1)
- right relationships with man (Table 2)

The highest ideals of living the world has ever received...

ideals of love and mercy that will draw the soft heart

The disciples of the Apostles wrote more about the SoM than
anything else

Revelation of the highest morality ever spoken: God's
God's morality starts where all of man's systems of morality end

Not a morality practiced by man to reach/attain a goal,
a morality that starts at the goal (the Kingdom of God)

Not what man can do to become citizens of the Kingdom of God,
what citizens of the Kingdom of God do
(citizens: identity, made by the grace of God)

Acts 13:38-39

Phil 2:12-16a

Not how to become a Christian/disciple of Jesus Christ,
how to be a Christian/disciple of Jesus Christ
(not how to become someone you are not, how to be who you are)

Not a new legalism to be pleasing to God, but the

- good fruit of the King Who is pleasing to God borne in the life of the liberated
- evidence of citizenship paid for and freely given

Jesus Christ, the King of the Kingdom, is opening the doors of His Kingdom to
whosoever would trust Him and follow Him

So important is this teaching that we must set the stage,
we must put things in perspective

Spiritual reference (ruler of man): prince of this world vs God of universe

Historical reference: "times of the Gentiles"

Israel was always "at war" with her occupiers: Culture wars

During this time, the Roman Empire embraced Greek culture

The everyday conflict in the lives of Jews:

Greek culture/philosophy/world view (man-centered)

vs

theirs (God's Law)

The Jews were a difficult people to govern because they

- offended by, rejected Greek culture/philosophy/world view
- acknowledged a Higher Authority – the God of Israel

Onto this scene came another culture/philosophy/world view –

God's, as presented by the Son of God, Jesus Christ (John 1:17)

Jesus Christ called Jew and Gentile to come out of their world views into

His...into His Kingdom

Hence, 3 kinds of people in 1 Cor 10:32

Jesus will first and foremost pour His heart and God's world view into His apostles, including Paul later

With Himself as the Foundation and them as the pillars, a new Body of people would be brought forth – the Church

The history of the early Church is captured for us in The Book of Acts of the Apostles (Holy Spirit) and in the writings of the disciples of the apostles...

- persecution by Jews and Gentiles/Greeks
- “Culture wars” by opposing world views, both Jew and Greek

Also why 1 John was inspired and recorded

So, in the Sermon on the Mount, we hear the Voice of God speaking to Adam's race...and the audience has never heard anything like this

1. Jews: the nation created by the One True and Living God to be His ambassadors to the other nations, to whom He gave the covenants, the Law, the service, the promises (Rom 9:4)

There is no parallel to this teaching in any Rabbinical teaching
Jesus teaching with power and authority, unlike the scribes,
“shifts into a higher gear”

John the Baptist, His Father, His works, and His words have borne witness to His Identity – the Son of God

In referencing the Law, Jesus will now say “But I say unto you”
(6 times in SoM and another 4 times in Matt)...
teaching a truth higher than the Law (John 1:17)

In the Constitution of His Kingdom, Jesus pours out the heart of the God of Ab and J...His heart of Love and mercy

2. Gentiles: no man has ever spoken like this man
Their world view is dominated by the Greek philosophers,
Plato and Aristotle in particular
 - There are no absolutes that can be known,
no unchanging and overarching Reality
 - Plato pointed “up” – gods (glorified man) and Fate were his reference point of “what is”
 - Aristotle pointed “down” – man is the beginning and source of “what is”, the reference point
 - man is autonomous, apart from god(s)
 - man is the source of truth, morals, the meaning of life

- Result: without absolutes,
 - everything is “relative”, subjective, arbitrary
 - there is no right or wrong...no morals
 - life has no meaning...the parts have no value apart from a unifying universal/absolute
 - there is no hope
 - confusion, chaos, war, tyranny, authoritarianism

They heard the God of Israel’s world view...and MUCH more

- The One True and Living God, Maker of heaven/earth
 - Separate from His creation
 - Transcends His creation
 - Everything is not God (creation is not God)
 - God is not in everything (God inhabits eternity)
- There are absolutes that can be known, unchanging and overarching truth revealed by the infinite, personal Creator God
- The God of Israel is the source of life, truth, morals
- Because OTL Creator God exists,
 - man’s life has meaning and value
 - man is dependent upon God
 - man is accountable to God
(ask Babylon, Persia, Moab, Ammon, Tyre...)
- Living by His revealed Truth (Word) results in:
 - order
 - meaning
 - peace
 - joy
 - contentment
 - freedom

3. Jews and Gentiles: God’s world view, the Kingdom of God, is unlike anything anyone has ever heard!

The truth, morals, and meaning of life rooted in the God of Israel is

- radical
- unique
- simply beautiful
- beautifully simple
- the highest ideals of living the world has ever received

Man cannot attain this ideal of living; he is left empty-handed, desperate, and utterly dependent upon God’s help(er) to live his life to this ideal

In the SoM, Jesus will speak of

- an inner life, rather than the outer life
Prov 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence;
 For out of it are the issues of life.
 i.e. motives count, accountability for purity of deed and thought
- the Spirit (Life) of the Law of Moses, rather than the letter of the Law
(condemnation and death) (Rom 8:1-4)
- “being” and then doing, rather than “doing” in order to be
- “arresting” principles of living, rather than New Age/Hindu/mystical
nonsense that echoes the man-centeredness of Plato and Aristotle
 - Gentiles/Greeks: Man is not autonomous and apart from God
Who exists and is not silent and will be known
 - Jews: Man is far more dependent upon God than he ever knew
 - Both: man cannot attain this ideal of living without God’s
help(er)

To this day we are embroiled in “culture wars”

1. Haters (reject Jesus Christ and His teaching) say
 - there are no absolutes that can be known, truth is arbitrary
 - Humanistic world view: man is
 - the center of all things
 - the source of truth, morals, and the meaning of life
 - autonomous, apart from god(s)
 - not accountable to God
 - not dependent upon God

Note: All of man’s problems arise when man tries to make something autonomous from God, the Creator of the Universe

To “rule out” God is to invite disaster, chaos, confusion

- Humanistic “Christian” world view: God is love so all things
(people, behaviors) are acceptable
 - There is no sin
 - There is no judgment
 - There is no need for “repentance”
 - Everybody is a child of God
 - Everybody goes to heaven
 - Love the sin, hate the sinner

2. Lovers (accept and obey Jesus Christ and His teaching) say
 - There are absolutes that can be known, they come from God, and they have been revealed to man in the Bible
 - The Creator God
 - is the source of life, truth, morals...therefore our lives have meaning
 - is loving, merciful, gracious, kind, compassionate... AND holy, just, King, Judge
 - loves the sinner, hates the sin
 - loves humility, hates pride
 - Man is
 - utterly dependent upon God (Dan 5:23, [Acts 17:24-31](#))
 - given a free will to believe in God's world view or not
 - accountable for his choice

Our society NEEDS to hear and see and understand the SoM, God's world view
They will only hear and see and understand if we tell them, teach them,
show them...[Gal 2:20](#)

Which means we NEED to hear and understand SoM like we never have before.
Even though it may be one of the more familiar passages of Scripture to
us, we only understand it superficially

Jesus Christ came to

- establish a Kingdom, not a School/College
- build a fellowship, not a religious system

That Kingdom and the fellowship start with and end with – Him
Every point “in between” is about us being “with Him” (Mark 3:14)

So let's start with an overview

1. Beatitudes
Ch 5:3-16

The Foundation: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Law (OT)
and the NT (Jer 31:31-33)

Conduct inherent in a disciple of Jesus Christ, the heart and mind
of God

2. Admonitions

Ch 5:17 – 7:12

- fulfilling the Law (5:17-19)
- righteousness (5:20)
- murder (5:21-24)
- making peace with men (5:23-26)
- adultery (5:27-28)
- seriousness of sin (5:29-30)
- divorce (5:31-32)
- oaths (5:33-37)
- vengeance vs grace (5:38-42)
- love your enemies (5:43-48)
- rewards: alms (6:1-4)
- rewards: prayer (6:5-6)
- prayer (6:7-13)
- forgiveness (6:14-15)
- rewards: fasting (6:16-18)
- money/treasure (6:19-21, 24)
- light and darkness (6:22-23)
- worry (6:25-34)
- judging others (7:1-5)
- pearls and pigs (7:6)
- ask, seek, knock (7:7-11)
- the Golden Rule (7:12)

3. Warning

Matt 7:13-27

Warning about a false sense of security that comes from
anything us and not everything Jesus

- the strait and narrow gate (7:13-14)
- false prophets (7:15-23)
- foundations (7:24-27)

Confronted with the impossibility of our ability to attain this ideal of living,
we come empty-handed and desperate to a loving and merciful Creator
God on the basis of the worthiness of His and our King
Jesus Christ, God's King (Ps 2), is the center and the fulfillment of the Kingdom
of God in history
(real people, places, events, truths)