

Tuesday Devotional

January 12, 2021

“Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down his disciples came with him. And he opened His mouth and taught them.” – Matthew 5:1-2

Today we begin our devotional series on the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is a sermon given to us by Jesus spanning from Matthew 5-7. This section of Scripture is well known, well read, and well-studied. It is one of if not the most practical teachings of Christ for the Christian life. We all long to live our best lives now. We live in a culture and world full of life coaches, Ted talks, and self-improvement projects. I would say without a shadow of a doubt that the Sermon on the Mount is the only formula we need to live our best life now. To live the “blessed” life in Christ. Marytn Lloyd Jones describes the Sermon on the Mount this way, *“The Sermon on the Mount is nothing but a great and grand and perfect elaboration of what our Lord called His ‘new commandment’. His new commandment was that we love one another even as He has loved us. If we are Christ’s, and our Lord has meant that word for us, that we should love one another even as He loved us, here we are shown how do it.”* To put it another way, the Sermon on the Mount is the blue-print to how we are to live as Christians. It is the formula and the guide given to us by God on how to love our neighbor as ourselves. However, as we look at each aspect of the Sermon on the Mount we must be careful to always remember to balance our view of grace given to us and our works. To be very very clear Jesus did not preach this sermon telling us that if we live this way and obey his commands and follow this formula we will be saved. This is a very dangerous and false view of the Sermon on the Mount. Rather, what Jesus IS teaching is because you have been saved by grace in Christ, live like this. This Sermon then is what one who has been united to Christ by God’s grace should look like. My hope and prayer is that this study is beneficial for our lives as the Christians and as the Church. As we study the Sermon on the Mount my hope is that we see and are reminded of these five things:

1. The wonderful teachings of Christ in general
2. Our complete and utter helplessness before God
3. The beauty that Christ died that we might live the Sermon on the Mount
4. A stronger desire for holiness and obedience
5. A desire for others to have this “blessed” life in Christ