

Introduction

The Sermon on the Mount describes the experience of a truly born-again believer. It is important to understand the fruits of salvation and check our own salvation. What identifies a true believer? A transformation of true salvation which is a complete transformation, not just of the outward but first of the inward nature from one who is sinful to one who is holy. Do we have this transformation, or are we headed for hell?

1. Transformation of Relationships

- a) With our possessions (Matt 6:19-24): Upon salvation, our relationship with our possession changes. What we treasure and accumulate will show
 - i. what is in our “heart”, meaning what we will, our affections and desires (Matt 6:21),
 - ii. our “eye” (Matt 6:22-23), meaning what we focus on and pursue after, and
 - iii. our master (Matt 6:24). If we want to serve God, we must do away with serving mammon.
- b) With the future (Matt 6:25-34): Jesus calls us to “*take no thought*” (Matt 6:25), not to be anxious or worried about our life (Matt 6:25) because
 - i. life is more than physical things. Our purpose is to do God’s will.
 - ii. God provides all that we need. He provides for the birds, what more for us? (Matt 6:26)
 - iii. We can change nothing by worrying and God provides far better than we can.
- c) With others (Matt 7:1-6): Jesus calls us to “judge not, that ye be not judged.” This does not mean to not judge at all, but rather not to be judgemental. To judge righteous judgment, we must begin with ourselves and repent of our own sins first, removing the beam out of our own eyes so we can see clearly when correcting others, and avoid hypocrisy.

2. Transformation in our Relationship with God (Matt 6:7-12)

Seek God in prayer, knowing He will hear. Consider what a privilege it is that our creator God would hear us, His insignificant creatures, and that He is our heavenly father, and we His beloved children. How can we find prayer and speaking to our heavenly father a chore? Can you testify of how God has answered your prayer?

3. Warnings for the Untransformed

In Matthew 6:13-14, Jesus warns us of the reality of salvation and how there is no in between – there is one path leading to life and the broad way leading to destruction. Hindrances to the way of life are: false teachers (v15-20) and false salvation (v21-27). Many believe they are saved but are not in reality. They use their prophesying, casting out of devils and wonderful works to claim salvation, but Jesus tells them to depart, calling them workers of iniquity. The attitude of a true believer is not to justify our salvation by works, but by clinging God’s promises and mercy. Jesus likens these two people to two builders – one building on the rock, another on the sand. True believers have salvation, and build on this firm foundation, able to withstand the storms of life. May we build on this firm foundation, and check that our lives are transformed by our new relationship with God.

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