

Together with Jesus

Week 3 – Matthew 5 and 6 – The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

We learn in Matthew 4 that large crowds of people begin to follow Jesus. Once it appears the group is large enough for an address, Jesus takes a very “Moses-like” position, sitting on a mountain and teaching the people. Jesus chose to begin His address to these people with these iconic sayings.

- **Why do you think Jesus chose to lead with these words of blessing? What else could have He led with?**

Matthew 5:13-20

The Nature of Being a Disciple of Jesus

After the beatitudes, Jesus explains His expectations for those who would continue to follow Him and become His disciples. These are also expectations for modern disciples. Expectations that cannot be fulfilled without forgiveness.

- **How does it feel to think of these expectations as things Jesus expects of His disciples today?**

Matthew 5:21-48

Jesus as Greater Authority

Jesus switches to an interesting “You have heard (from the religious authorities)...but I tell you...” format. In doing this, Jesus sets Himself as a greater authority, but He also increases the difficulty of the laws in question.

- **What other religious rules can you imagine Jesus using “You have heard...but I tell you...” to address?**

Matthew 6:1-4

Public Righteousness

Jesus addresses the issue of doing good things just in order to be seen and held in high regard.

- **When are you tempted to do legitimately good things, but only to be seen or honored?**

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Matthew 6:5-15**Jesus Explains Prayer**

Jesus explains prayer to the crowds, encouraging them also to not make this a show. He then gives the words of the Lord's Prayer as an archetype of prayer.

- **What specifically does Jesus tell the crowds and us “not” to do when we pray?**

Matthew 6:16-24**Storing Rewards**

In two situations, fasting and personal wealth, Jesus teaches the people to be careful about what they allow themselves to be attached to and what “rewards” they may be trading their heavenly rewards for.

- **In what other situations might people trade heavenly rewards for earthly ones?**

Matthew 6:25-34**Trusting God's Provision**

Jesus encourages the crowds to trust that God is in control and provides for them.

- **Our culture is even better taken care of than the people in Jesus' original audience. What do we have trouble trusting God for still?**

Patterns for Memory

Jesus seems to use rhetorical patterns to help His audience remember His message. This makes sense in a world where there are no recording devices and only a few would be writing notes. What patterns can you find in this section of the Sermon on the Mount that might help you in remembering what Jesus said?

Red Letter Challenge this week – BYSSIW

This week, take Jesus' words from John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will obey My commands” to heart. We don't always “want” to do God's will, but sometimes it is important that we do it, even if we don't feel like it. This week we challenge you to write “BYSSIW” (Because You said so, I will) on a sticky note to remind you to do something that is God's will, even if you don't feel like it.