

Western Mountains Around The Sea Of Galilee



***Horns of Hattin (traditional location of
The Sermon on the Mount)***



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MATTHEW 5:1 – 7:29

1. CONVERSION *Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom*
Matthew 5:2-12

2. CONTRAST *Spiritual Growth In The Kingdom*
Matthew 5:13-7:12

3. CONCLUSION
Individual Responsibility To The Kingdom
Matthew 7:13-27

Moses

Deuteronomy 5:7-21

Jesus

7 You shall **have no other gods** before Me.

8 You shall **not make for yourself a carved image**-any likeness of anything that is in

heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 9 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

11 You shall **not take the name of the LORD your God in vain**, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

12 Observe the **Sabbat** day, to keep it holy

16 **Honor your father and your mother**

17 You shall **not murder.**

18 You shall **not commit adultery.**

19 You shall **not steal.**

20 You shall **not bear false witness**

21 You shall **not covet**

Matthew 5:1-12 –
The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:17-20
"The Law"

Matthew 5:13-20

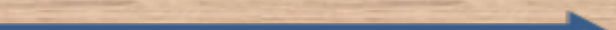
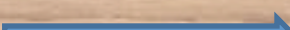
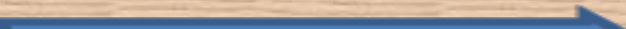
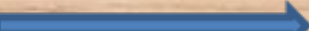
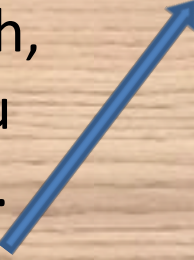
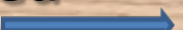
Matthew 5:21-26

Matthew 5:27-32

Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 5:38-6:18

Matthew 6:19-7:11



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom

Matthew 5:2-12

Matthew 5:3-12

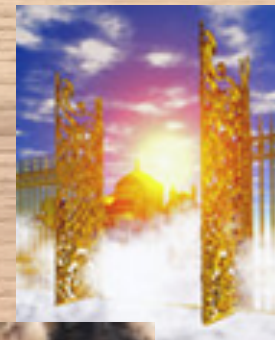
“Blessed” (Greek, *makarios*=“happy”

John 13:17; 20:29; 1 Timothy 1:11; Titus 2:13)

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit,

[Luke 6:20; James 2:1-7]

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



4 Blessed are those who mourn,

[Luke 6:21; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 12:9-11;]

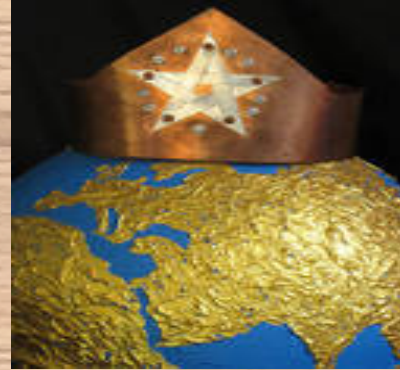
For they shall be comforted.



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom

Matthew 5:2-12



5 Blessed are the meek,

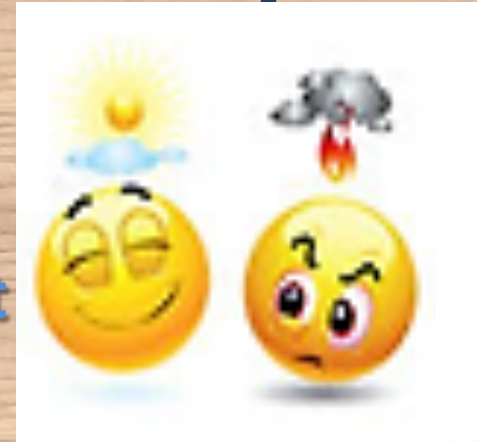
[Psalm 37:7-11; 25:12-14; Zephaniah 2:3;
Matthew 11:29; Galatians 5:23; Philippians 2:3]

For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,

[Luke 6:21a; Psalm 119:172; Luke 1:6; Romans 1:17]

For they shall be filled.



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom
Matthew 5:2-12

6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness,**

For **they shall be filled.**

[**Luke 6:21a; Psalm 119:172; 1 John 2:29;**
Luke 1:6; Romans 1:17; “Psalm 34:10;”
Matthew 14:20; Colossians 1:9-10;
Romans 1:28-29]



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom
Matthew 5:2-12

7 Blessed are the **merciful**,
For **they shall obtain mercy**.

[**Luke 6:36; Exodus 34:5-7; Hebrews 2:17;**
Proverbs 11:17; James 2:12-13; Matthew 6:15;
Matthew 7:1-2]



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom
Matthew 5:2-12

8 Blessed are the **pure in heart**,
For **they shall see God**.

[Psalm 15:1-5; Psalm 24:3-6; 1 John 3:2-3;
Genesis 32:30; Exodus 33:20-23; Judges 6:22]



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom

Matthew 5:2-12

9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**,
For **they shall be called sons of God.**

[Ephesians 2:14-16; Proverbs 11:12-13;
Proverbs 15:1; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; Romans 8:14;
Galatians 3:26-27; Luke 20:27, 34-36;]



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom

Matthew 5:2-12

10 Blessed are those who are **persecuted**
for righteousness' sake, **For theirs is**
the kingdom of heaven.



Saul Did-Acts 9:2; 26:11; 1 Corinthians 15:9

Follow Jesus' Example-1 Peter 2:19-22; 3:14; 4:14

Develop Patience- 1 Corinthians 4:12;
2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Luke 6:22—"exclude"-mark off a boundary

God Will "Pay Back" All Who Do This!

Deuteronomy 30:7



1. CONVERSION

Attitudes Fit For The Kingdom

Matthew 5:2-12

11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for **great is your reward in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Vocal Attacks

James 2:7: “Do they not blaspheme that **noble name by which you are called?**” **Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16**

Luke 6:26: “**Woe** to you when **all men speak well of you**, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

Galatians 4:28-29; John 15:18-25- It's nothing personal to us!



2. CONTRAST

Spiritual Growth In The Kingdom

Matthew 5:13-7:12

Matthew 5:13: “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt **loses its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? It is then **good for nothing** but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”



“loses its flavor”—from Greek *moros-dull, foolish, or without its purpose*, can describing a Christian who may be crystalline sparkly on the outside, but without any use to the body of Christ



“good for nothing”—totally useless, having departed from its intended purpose



Mark 9:50: "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? **Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.**"



Mark 9:50: "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? **Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.**"



Lot's wife = "salt" in the sacrifice? **Genesis 19:26;**
Mosaic sacrifices all had salt **Leviticus 2:13;**
"Covenant of salt" **Numbers 18:19;**
Promised Land bordered on Salt Sea **Numbers 34:3;**
Salt dedicated water through Elisha **2 Kings 2:18-22;**
Should NOT have "salty" language
Colossians 4:6; James 3:8-12



Matthew 5:13: “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt **loses its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? It is then **good for nothing** but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”

“**loses its flavor**”—from Greek *moros*-dull, foolish, or without its purpose. It can describe a Christian who may be crystalline sparkly on the outside, but without any use to the body of Christ **Being with some Christians leaves the day “flat” Job 6:6; Being with other Christians is like being born Ezekiel 16:4**

“**good for nothing**”—totally useless, having departed from its intended purpose



14 “You are the light of the world.

A city that is **set on a hill** cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they **light a lamp** and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to **all who are in the house.**

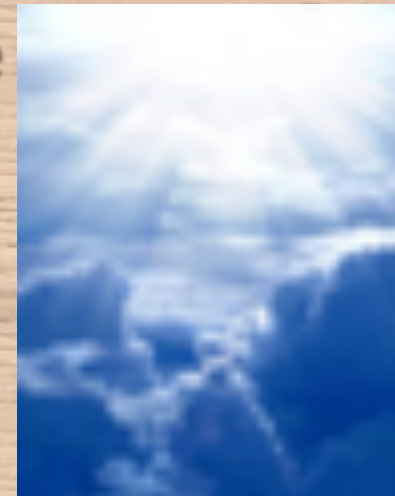
16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Good-for-nothing salt = covered-up light!

“All who are in the house” = Everyone in our life!

Proverbs 4:18: “But the **path of the just is like the shining sun**, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”

Philippians 2:15; 2 Corinthians 8:21; Titus 2:8; 1 Peter 2:12 (Luke 19:43-44)



A New Law

Matthew 5:17-20: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did **not** come to destroy **but to fulfill**. **18** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled**. **19** Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called **least in the kingdom of heaven**; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven**. **20** For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by **no means enter** the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus' Relationship To Moses' Law:

- 1. v. 17** He did **NOT** “destroy” (“loosen, violate, dissolve”) **2 Corinthians 5:1**;
- 2. v. 17-18** He would “fulfill” (“fill full”) **Luke 24:44-45**
“the Word of God” -- **Colossians 1:24-26**
“Isaiah the prophet” – **Matthew 1:22-23**;
2:15; 4:14-17; 8:17; 12:17-21; 21:4
John 12:38; 13:18; 19:24
- 3. v. 19** He would teach Moses' commandments until His kingdom came **Acts 1:1; Matthew 23:3**
- 4. v.20** His kingdom was after the Scribes and Pharisees. **1 Kings 10:7; Matthew 23:1-5; 1 John 2:29**

Anger Management - Matthew 5:21-26:

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' **22** But I say to you that whoever is **angry** with his brother **without a cause** shall be in danger of the **judgment**. And whoever says to his brother, '**Raca!**' shall be in danger of **the council**. But whoever says, '**You fool!**' shall be in danger of **hell fire**. **23** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that **your brother has something against you**, **24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. **First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift**. **25** Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **26** Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny."

2. CONTRAST

Spiritual Growth In The Kingdom

Matthew 5:13-7:12

Action:

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder [**Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17**], and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'" [**Deuteronomy 1:15-17; 16:19; Exodus 18:22-26**]

Thought:

22 "But I say to you that whoever is **angry** with his brother **without a cause** shall be in danger of the **judgment**.

[**Deuteronomy 17:8-13**] And whoever says to his brother, '**Raca!**' shall be in danger of **the council**. [**James 3:8-10**] But whoever says, '**You fool!**' shall be in danger of **hell fire**." [**Jeremiah 7:31-32**]

Anger without cause = a desire for injury

Raca = Empty, no brains, contempt for thoughts

Fool = Dull, Stupid, hatred for heart or person

Any of these three expressions = MURDER! Mark 7:21; 1 John 3:15

2. CONTRAST

Spiritual Growth In The Kingdom

Matthew 5:13-7:12

Initiative:

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that **your brother has something against you,**
24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way.
First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **25** Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **26** Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.”

Brotherly love comes first 1 John 4:17-21; Matthew 22:37, 39

Be reconciled Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20;

Luke 17:3; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1

Adultery Management - Matthew 5:27-32

Law

Matthew 5:27

Matthew 5:27: "You have heard that **it was said** to those of old, '**You shall not commit adultery.**'"

Where was it "said?"

Moses' Law **Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18**

Specifics-**Leviticus 20:10**

"Smarts"-**Proverbs 6:32**

Spiritual-**Jeremiah 3:6-22; Hosea 3:1**

Adultery Management #2- Matthew 5:27-32

Intent

Matthew 5:28

"But **I say** to you that whoever **looks at a woman to lust** for her has **already committed** adultery with her **in his heart.**"

1. Doesn't apply to a Husband! **1 Corinthians 7:1-4**
2. Why men? **Proverbs 6:20-35;**
3. Can become an "eyeful!" **2 Peter 2:12-14**
4. Sage Advice-**Proverbs 6:23-29; 2 Samuel 11:2-4**
5. Emphasizes inward intent, not just outward action.

2. CONTRAST

Spiritual Growth In The Kingdom

Matthew 5:13-7:12

Adultery Management #3 - Matthew 5:27-32

Intent

Matthew 5:29-30

“If your **right eye** causes you to sin, **pluck it out** and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. **30** And if your **right hand** causes you to sin, **cut it off** and cast it from you; **for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.**”

1. Then is it all right to sin with your “left” hand?

Matthew 6:1-4; 25:31-33, 41-45

1. **NOT** mutilation, but control of the body needed.

Matthew 18:7-9; Mark 9:41-48; Romans 8:10-14

2. It is a continual struggle! **Romans 7:18-25**

Intent **Matthew 5:31-32**

"Furthermore **it has been said**, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' **32** But **I say** to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason **except** sexual immorality **causes her** to commit **adultery**; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits **adultery**."

1. Where was it "said?"

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

[NOT In "The Law;" **Matthew 19:7-8**]

2. Marriage is for life

Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:1-4

Adultery Management #5 - Matthew 5:27-32

Intent Matthew 5:31-32 #2

"Furthermore **it has been said**, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' **32** But **I say** to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason **except sexual immorality causes her** to commit **adultery**; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits **adultery**."

3. The only exception is "sexual immorality."
Matthew 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11
adultery is "an act" of this John 8:4

4. Divorce "for any reason" other than this is NOT acceptable!

Assurance Management - Matthew 5:27-32

Intent **Matthew 5:33-37**

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' 34

But I say to you, do not swear at all:

neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;

35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool;

nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the

great King. **36 Nor shall you swear by**

your head, because you cannot make one

hair white or black. **37 But let your 'Yes' be**

'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is

more than these is from the evil one.”

Intent **Matthew 5:33** "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'"

1. Where was it "said?"

Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11; 6:13; 10:20

Leviticus 19:12; Isaiah 48:1

2. What misapplication(s) had been made?

Isaiah 48:2-by Jerusalem;

Jeremiah 5:1-2; Hosea 4:15-16-by Heaven;

Jeremiah 7:8-10-use worship to "cancel"

false oaths

34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: **neither by heaven**, for it is God's throne; **35 nor by the earth**, for it is His footstool; **nor by Jerusalem**, for it is the city of the great King. **36 Nor shall you swear by your head**, because you cannot make one hair white or black. **37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'** For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

3. Is all "swearing" wrong?

Now it is! Matthew 5:34; James 5:12

Before, it wasn't! Genesis 21:22-24; 24:1-9;

Joshua 2:14-18; Ezra 10:5

2. CONTRAST

Spiritual Growth In The Kingdom

Assurance Management #4 - Matthew 5:27-32

Matthew 5:13-7:12

Intent **Matthew 5:34-37**

34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; **35** nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. **36** Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. **37** But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

4. Profanity (swearing falsely) is often accompanied by cursing Matthew 26:74 and disregard for God Jeremiah 7:8-11

Assurance Management #5 – Matthew 5:38-42

Matthew 5:38-42:

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' **39** But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. **40** If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **41** And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **42** Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."

Assurance Management #6 -

Matthew 5:38: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'"

1. Where was it said?

A. Miscarriage-**Exodus 21:22-27**;

B. Scarring-**Leviticus 24:17-22**;

C. False Witness-**Deuteronomy 19:14-21**

2. It was the legal punishment for crimes to the person, NOT personal retaliation!

Assurance Management #7 -

Matthew 5:39: "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."

1. Leave "getting even" to God

**Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:28-31;
Deuteronomy 32:35-36**

2. This doesn't forbid renouncing evil-doers

John 18:19-24; Acts 23:1-5

3. Wisdom is against retaliation

Proverbs 20:22; 24:29

Assurance Management #8 -

Matthew 5:40: “If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.”

1. Which garment one is sued for is indifferent, because **Luke 6:29** shows that it is a “package deal,” that is, be willing to settle.
2. Especially if this involves a brother in Christ! **1 Corinthians 6:1-8**
3. Remember **Matthew 5:25**?

Assurance Management #9 -

Matthew 5:41: “And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two”

1. This is what happened to Simon of Cyrene **Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21**
2. Jesus used this to show His Kingly authority **Matthew 21:1-7; Zechariah 9:9**

Assurance Management #10 -

Matthew 5:42: "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."

1. An Old Testament principle

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

2. Now a New Testament principle

Luke 6:29-36

3. NOT, however, indiscriminately so, but erring toward the merciful side.

4. God gives "according to His will"

1 John 3:22

Matthew 5:43-48: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I say to you, 'love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.'"

Matthew 5:43: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

1. Where is the source of this quote?

a. NOT in Leviticus 19:18

b. BUT in Rabbinical "interpretations"

2. When uninspired people give their commentary, interpretation, or application of Scripture, it is not the same as Scripture saying something! Ecclesiastes 8:1

Jesus' teaches His point! Mark 4:33-34

OR Scripture makes its own point!

Matthew 9:10-13; 12:1-8

Matthew 5:44-45: But I say to you, 'love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.'"

1. Love is inclusive of "grace & mercy" or seeing their need for good in their misery
2. God sets the example every day that some good must be done regardless of others' attitudes toward us.

Matthew 5:46-48: "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

- 1. "Flat-lining" love is NOT acceptable!**
- 2. "Perfection" is in consistently-applied attitude, not sinless actions!**
Luke 6:36; 1 Peter 1:15-16
- 3. It's NOT impossible! Ephesians 5:1-2**

Offering Spiritual Sacrifices

Giving

Matthew 6:1-4:

"Take heed that you **do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.**

Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, **do not sound a trumpet before you** as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **that they may have glory from men.**

Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.** **3** But when you do a charitable deed, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,** **4** that your charitable deed **may be in secret;** and your Father who sees in secret will Himself **reward you openly.**

Praying #1

Matthew 6:5

5 "And when you pray, **you shall not be like the hypocrites.** For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

1. NOT hypocritically to "be seen by men."

Matthew 23:5-7; Luke 20:46-47;

Numbers 15:38-41-remember God, not man

2. NOT all "public prayers" are condemned!

**Luke 1:10; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:23-31;
12:11-12; 16:25**

Praying #2

Matthew 6:6

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, **pray to your Father who is in the secret place;** and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

- 1. Prayer is private communication with God. Genesis 20:1-7; 1 Kings 8:28-40; Psalm 55:16-17; Luke 18:1**
- 2. God "sees in secret" 6:4, 6, 18**
He isn't impressed like a man would be!
God sees all. Genesis 16:1-14;
Psalm 33:13-15; John 12:44-45

Praying #3

Matthew 6:5-8

7 “And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do.** For they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** **Therefore do not be like them.** For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

- 1. “Heathen” one who “acts under a mask” or insincerely. Psalm 26:1-5; Galatians 2:11-14; Jeremiah 42:19-21; Matthew 15:1-9**
- 2. Christians should NOT permit worship to follow the world’s pattern!**

Praying #4

Matthew 6:9-15

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10** Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. **13** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. **14** For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2. CONTRAST

Praying #5

Matthew 6:9-15

- 1. To repeat "the Lord's prayer" is simply to quote Scripture, NOT offer a prayer.**
- 2. To repeat the same words over and over, by rote, is the very practice of the "hypocrites" that Jesus is condemning!**
- 3. God's "kingdom" has already come, and thus, this would be a meaningless phrase to use today! **Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28****
- 4. To request "daily bread" requires "daily prayer"**
- 5. God tempts NO ONE to sin! **James 1:13-17****
- 6. Asking God's forgiveness is useless if we will not forgive others' offenses against us.**

Fasting #1

Matthew 6:16-18

"Moreover, **when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites**, with a sad countenance. For **they disfigure their faces** that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

17 But **you, when you fast**, anoint your head and wash your face, **18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting**, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."**

"Moreover, **when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites**, with a sad countenance. For **they disfigure their faces** that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

- 1. The issue is not "whether" but "when."*
- 2. There never is a set date or time "when." **Ezra 9:1-6; Nehemiah 1:1-4; Psalm 35:11-13; Daniel 9:1-3; Mark 9:29; Acts 10:30; 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:15***
- 3. "Fasting, like "giving" and "prayer" is personal between a Christian and God.*
- 4. These 3 acts of devotion must NOT be associated with acts which call public attention to them.*

2. CONTRAST

17 But **you, when you fast,** anoint your head and wash your face, **18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting,** but to your Father who is in the secret place; and **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."**

1. Disciples live differently from "hypocrites."

Job 36:13-14; Psalm 26:3-8;

Jeremiah 42:19-22; Matthew 15:1-9;

23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 29; Luke 11:44

2. Disciples must do nothing **to please men.**

Galatians 1:10

3. "Giving," "Prayer," "Fasting" are spontaneous, not set, and are expressions associated with meeting needs.

Material Matters

Matthew 6:19-21

"**Do not** lay up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **20 but** lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**"

1. Two Treasures: temporary or eternal.

2. Inordinate desire Luke 12:15

3. It's never enough! Ecclesiastes 5:9-12

4. Bottom line is adequate, all else is extra

Psalm 37:16; Proverbs 15:16; 16:8;

Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19

Material Matters

Matthew 6:22-24

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your **eye is good**, your whole body will be full of light. **23** But if your **eye is bad**, your whole body will be full of darkness. **If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

**1. Two Eyes: Good Proverbs 22:9 or
Bad Proverbs 28:22**

**2. Wrong to Condemn the Generous
Matthew 20:1-16**

3. Blind Leading the Blind Luke 6:39

Material Matters

Matthew 6:24

24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

- 1. Two Masters: God or Mammon.**
- 2. Impossible to try Luke 18:18-25**
- 3. Loyalty is the issue James 1:5-8; 4:8**
- 4. "Mammon" (Greek, *mammona*), money-god. Also in **Luke 16:9,11,13****
- 5. Don't Be Owned By Ownership!**

Material Matters

Matthew 6:25

"**THEREFORE** I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will **eat** or what you will **drink**; nor about **your body**, what you will **put on**. **Is not life more than food and the body** more than clothing?"

1. "Worry" = "anxiety" **Philippians 4:6**
* "concern, planning ahead" **Romans 1:11-13** ("longing"); **Romans 15:23-24** ("longing"); **1 Thessalonians 2:17-18** ("desired," "longing")
2. "Life" = "soul" (Greek *psyche*) **Matthew 10:28; 16:25-26**
3. "Life" is "more than" not "other than"

Material Matters

Matthew 6:26-29

26 Look at the **birds of the air**, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not of more value than they?

- 1. Plural, God works for all, not just a particular individual or kind!**
- 2. Birds are free to “fly” Genesis 1:20; “multiply” Genesis 1:22; and have “nests” Matthew 8:20; but not dominate mankind Genesis 1:26**
- 3. Under Moses, used as poor’s sacrifice instead of lamb Leviticus 5:7; 12:8; Luke 2:24**

Material Matters

Matthew 6:27-29

27 Which of you **by worrying** can add one cubit to his stature? **28** So **why do you worry** about clothing? Consider the **lilies of the field**, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; **29** and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

1. What good does "anxiety do?"

Then, why "worry?"

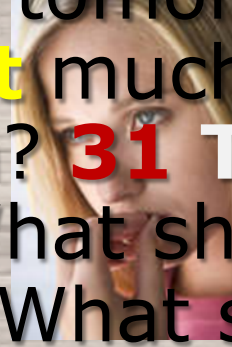
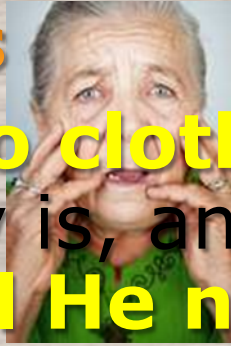
2. It's not *that* flowers grow, but "how!"

3. Elegance of human effort not equal!

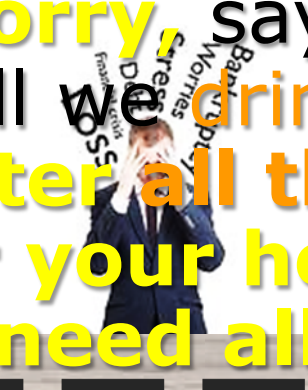
1 Kings 10:23; Revelation 17:3-6

Material Matters

Matthew 6:30-32



30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **will He not** much more clothe you, **O you of little faith?** **31** **THEREFORE do not worry,** saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.



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- 1. "Anxiety" shows the size of faith**
Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20
 - 2. Don't practice religion like "others!"**
Matthew 6:2, 5, 7-8, 16, 19, 31-32

So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life." Mark 10:29-30

2. Jesus seeks the lost Luke 19:10, but men must seek Him John 5:44; 6:20; Isaiah 55:6; Acts 15:14-17; 17:27

Fellowship Failure

Matthew 7:1-2

"**Judge not**, that you be not judged. **2** For with **what judgment you judge**, you will be judged; and with **the measure you use**, it will be measured back to you.

- 1. "Judge" = drawing the conclusion on a person's eternal destiny John 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Timothy 4:1**
- 2. It's premature 1 Corinthians 4:5**
- 3. It's presumptive James 4:11-12**
- 4. It's powerful Luke 6:37-38**

Fellowship Failure

Matthew 7:3-5

3 And **why** do you **look at the speck in your brother's eye**, but **do not consider the plank** in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? **5 Hypocrite! First** remove the plank from your own eye, **and then** you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

1. Ours is simply a different "speck"!

Psalm 25:18; 32:5; 51:2-3; Job 13:23;

1 Corinthians 4:4

2. "But Now" **John 9:41; 15:22, 24**

3. Watch what "we say" **1 John 1:8; 3:5**

2. CONTRAST

Fellowship Failure

Matthew 7:6

"Do not give **what is holy to the dogs**; nor cast your **pearls before swine**, lest they **trample them** under their feet, **and turn and tear** you in pieces."

1. Dogs are scavengers Exodus 22:31 that eat blood 1 Kings 22:38 and attack from any side Psalm 22:16; swine were unclean Deuteronomy 14:8



2. No doubt, parallels can be drawn: "As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely woman who lacks discretion." Proverbs 11:22

3. Teaching the unteachable

Proverbs 26:4-5, 11

Fellowship Failure

Matthew 7:7-11

7 Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.** **9** Or what man is there among you who, if his son **asks for bread**, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he **asks for a fish**, will he give him a serpent? **11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

1. Who "Receives"? "Receives" What?

2. Isn't the Heavenly Father above the earthly father?

Fellowship Failure

Matthew 7:12

12 Therefore, **whatever you want** men to do to you, **do also to them**, for **this is the Law and the Prophets.**

1. God's Example 1 John 4:19

2. This is a "royal law:" James 2:8-10

3. Treat others like you want to be treated, NOT like you think you OUGHT to be treated!

4. Applied to Jobs Colossians 3:22-25

5. Applied to Others Romans 12:17-21

Destiny's Decision

Matthew 7:13–14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

1. The "crossroads" of life!

Proverbs 4:26; Joshua 24:15;

2 Samuel 24:1-25 (vs. 13);

Proverbs 1:28-31

2. God gives facts about both!

3. "Life" takes effort! Luke 13:23-30



Destiny's Decision

Matthew 7:15

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

1. Not everyone teaches the truth!

Jeremiah 23:16; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 12-15; Galatians 1:6-8; 1 Timothy 6:3-5

2. Deception rules! Ephesians 6:3-6

Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24; Acts 20:29-31;

3. Ulterior motives Proverbs 23:6-8;

Romans 16:17-18

Destiny's Decision

Matthew 7:16-20

"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather **grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?** **17** Even so, every **good tree** bears **good fruit**, but a **bad tree** bears **bad fruit.** **18** "A **good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor** can a **bad tree bear good fruit.** **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** **Therefore by their fruits you will know them."**

- 1. Judging (vs.1) is NOT fruit inspection!***
- 2. Judgment will NOT miss any bad tree!***
- 3. What is preached is what is produced!***

Destiny's Decision

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does** the will of My Father in heaven."

1. Words without deeds are useless.

Luke 9:26-27, 44-45; 24:9-12;

John 8:46-47; 14:23-24

2. "Not everyone" but some say "Lord, Lord" and then obey. Luke 6:46; 13:25

3. "Does" = "obedience" Mark 3:35; 1 John 2:17

Destiny's Decision

Matthew 7:22-23

"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' **23** And **then I will declare** to them, 'I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"**

1. "Have we not" means they did not ask what pleased God, but assumed authority for their practices.

Numbers 15:30-31; Psalm 19:13; Hebrews 10:26-27; 2 Peter 2:9-11

2. "Lawlessness" = "self-willed" religion! **I John 2:29; 3:4;**

Jeremiah 6:19-20; Malachi 1:6-14

Destiny's Decision

Matthew 7:24-25

"Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a **wise man** who built his **house on the rock**:
25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and **it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.**

1. "Weather-beaten" isn't the same as "defeated!"

2. The "wise" are those who obey Jesus Christ.



Destiny's Decision

"Therefore ¹ **whoever** ² **hears these** ³ **sayings of Mine, and does them,**"

¹ **Flee the "Unhappy"** "But He said, 'More than that, **blessed** are those who **hear** the word of God **and keep it!**'" **Luke 11:28**

Like "faith" but not "faith only!" "But **be doers** of the word, and **not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves." **James 1:22**

"Look & Listen" "But he who **looks into** the perfect law of liberty **and continues in it**, and is **not a forgetful hearer** but a **doer of the work**, this one will be blessed in what he does." **James 1:25**

Destiny's Decision

2 Adverb of manner: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20**

The body of truth: "Then **the proconsul believed**, when he saw what had been done, **being astonished at the teaching of the Lord**" **Acts 13:12.**

Destiny's Decision

3 “For if anyone is **a hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he **observes** himself, **goes away**, and **immediately forgets** what kind of man he was. But **he who looks** into the perfect law of liberty **and continues in it**, and is not a forgetful hearer **but a doer of the work**, this one will be blessed in what he does” **James 1:23-25.**

“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, **speaks evil of the law and judges the law.** But if you judge the law, **you are not a doer of the law but a judge” James 4:11.**

Destiny's Decision Matthew 7:26-27

26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: **27** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; **and it fell.** And great was its fall."

1. Everyone who "hears" must make a choice!

2. A "fool" decides not to obey Jesus Christ.



Destiny's Decision **Matthew 7:28-29**

“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that **the people were astonished at His teaching, 29** for He taught them as **one having authority, and not as the scribes.**”

1. Everyone who heard, had the opportunity to be impressed with His “authority.”



2. Nothing is said about anyone planning to hear any more.

3. Good decisions can be made as soon as good information is gathered.