

“Gospel Participation”

The Sermon on the Mount

(Matthew 5-7)

Intro:

QUESTION: What does a Christian look like?

What does a Disciple of Christ look like?

We’re going to answer that this morning...

BETTER... Jesus is going to answer...

T/S: Series Summary (Biblical context to this point)

1. God demonstrated His unique “goodness” & “greatness” in creation...
2. He created Truth, initiated Love, & requires Righteousness
3. Humanity fell into sin... listening to lies... losing faith & lost forever!
4. God promises to make a potential Way of redemption & restoration
 - a. “Who-so-ever” breathes = INVITATION
 - b. “Who-ever” obeys = APPLICATION
5. That Way will be unique, necessary, & sequential...
6. Jesus had to come... (first Missionary)
7. You have to be invited...
 - a. Human: Great Commission “Invited”
 - b. Holy Spirit: Great Commandment “Indwelt”
8. You must follow Jesus
 - a. Repent = turn from.... and... come to/toward Christ!
 - b. Believe
 - Heart = receive
 - Head = believe
 - Hands = leave (your comfort/comfort zone)
 - c. Receive
9. “Following” defined: “ALL your heart, soul, mind, & strength...”
10. “Following” described: ...see the Sermon on the Mount!

Sermon on the Mount “Context”

Matthew 4:18-25

A. *(The First Disciples Join Jesus...) ...as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He *said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him...*

B. *(Ministry in Galilee...) 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.*

24 The news about Him spread... 25 Large crowds followed Him...

NOTE: In “Defining the Gospel Promise” we ended in John 3...

A. “You must be born again...” There is NO pre-birth “participation.” - JDP

T/S: As well walk thru Christ’s Sermon on the Mount... NOTICE:

The sermon’s LENGTH
The sermon’s SCOPE
The sermon’s BREADTH
The sermon’s AUTHORITATIVE Tenor

The Sermon on the Mount’s Introduction:

5:1-2 = *Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and ...his disciples came to him 2 And he... taught them*

Seeing “crowds”... Christ thought CHANGE...

Seeking “change”... Christ taught TRUTH...

“Crowds *changed* by Truth, in-Christ... become Church!” - JDP

Jesus does not invite you to “come” – No!
He invites and commands you to BE-come!
Coming to “see” & coming to BE are eternally different.

Last week we DEFINED “*Gospel Promise*”

Today we will DESCRIBE “*Gospel Participation*”

I. It’s Not What You Think... (Matthew 5)

- CORRECTIVE -

(Prophet)

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

A. Difference between “the way” and the world

The Character & Characteristics of a Christian:

Contrast - Beatitudes – blessed (current)... blessing (future)

5:2-12 = *Blessed are the...* (Blessed = Ma-kar-ee-os)

Poor in Spirit...

Mourn...

v. ...smug in self & “stuff”

v. ...cheapen grace

<i>Meek...</i>	v. ...crude, rude &
<i>Hunger/Thirst for Righteousness...</i>	v. ...worldly ambitions
<i>Merciful...</i>	v. ...mean spirited
<i>Pure in Heart...</i>	v. ...manipulative
<i>Peace-makers...</i>	v. ...trouble-makers
<i>Persecuted... (3X)</i>	v. ...compromised cowards

B. Trust Me... I'm worth it (Jesus, the Christ)

5:2-12 = Blessing includes...

...theirs is the kingdom of heaven (those poor in Spirit)
...they will be comforted (those who mourn)
...they shall inherit the earth (the meek)
...they shall be satisfied (who hunger/thirst after righteousness)
...they shall receive mercy (the merciful)
...they shall see God (the pure in heart)
...they shall be called sons of God (the peace-makers)
...theirs is the kingdom of heaven (those persecuted)
...Rejoice & be glad for great is your reward in heaven!
(all persecuted)

Christians)

C. EVERY Christian's Calling:

Salt & Light

5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? **It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.**

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

D. Christ's Reason for Coming...

5:17-20 = "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them..."

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

E. Your Attitude Defines Your Actions... (See/BE God's Love vs. legalism)

"You have heard it was said... But I SAY to you..." (6X)

*Anger
Adultery
Divorce
Oaths
Retaliation
Hate*

Contrast between Christian Love & Churchy Legalism:

Contrast & Correct 1. Anger/Murder

5:21-26

(Anger) 5:21-26 = "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment..."

Note how important this is to God...

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift...

Contrast & Correct 2. Lust/Adultery

5:27-30

(Lust) 5:27-30 = "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

Again... notice how important this is to God...

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell...

Contrast & Correct 3. Divorce

5:31-32

(Divorce) 5:31-32 = "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' **32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality...**

NOTE: 1 Cor. 7 adds "abandonment"

NOTE: Separation for safety is ok... with hopes of restoration

Contrast & Correct 4. Oaths

5:33-37

(Oaths) 5:33-37 = "Again you have heard that it was said... 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' **34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all... 37 Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no;"** anything more than this comes from evil.

Contrast & Correct 5. Retaliation

5:38-42

(Retaliation) 5:38-42 = "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' **39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40** And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. **41** And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. **42** Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Contrast & Correct 6. HATE... Love (for enemies)

5:43-48

(Love Your Enemies) 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 and pray for those who persecute you, 45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven...

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

II. It's More Than That... (Matthew 6)

- INSTRUCTIVE -

(Priest)

Righteous PERSPECTIVE:

- A. Real love lives & gives... (from the **heart**, not for **hype!**)

(Giving to the Needy) 6:1-4 = "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father... in heaven.

2 "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

1. Note: "Shine your light..." vs. "...to be seen by others"
 2. KEY: It ALWAYS comes down to a HEART THING.
- *Mission & Motive measure ministry.* – JDP

Righteous PRAYER

B. Real love prays & obeys

(The Lord's Prayer) 6:5-15 = "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you pray, **do not heap up empty phrases** as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for **your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

9 Pray then like this: "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 also have forgiven our debtors. **13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. **14** For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, **15** but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

*** God, have mercy on me, a sinner. – see key elements

Righteous PREPARATION

C. Real love fasts & lasts

(Fasting) 6:16-18 = "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your **Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

Righteous PERSPECTIVE

D. Real love goes all-in

(Lay Up Treasures in Heaven) 6:19-24 = "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.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, **23** but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

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

Righteous PEACE

E. Real love need not worry

Do Not Be Anxious

25 "Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious 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? **26** *Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?* **27** *And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?* **28** *And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,* **29** *yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.* **30** *But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?* **31** *Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'* **32** *For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.* **33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

34 *"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

III. **It's All You Need-Guaranteed!** (Matthew 7)

- AUTHORITATIVE -

(King)

- A. Have... Holy, Humble & Helpful Hearts... (1st things 1st
- logs before specks)

(Judging Others) 7:1-6 = "Judge not, that you be not judged.
2 *For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.* **3** *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?* **4** *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?* **5** *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

B. Be shrewd & innocent... (don't cast your pearls...)

6 "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

C. Ask, Seek, & Knock! (Lord – “give them the want-to”)

(Ask, and It Will Be Given) 7:7-11 = "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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened....

11 If you then, who are 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!

D. Live His love out loud... Live the Golden Rule.

(The Golden Rule & Narrow Road) = 7:12

v.12 = "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets..."

E. Choose the NARROW Way... with the "FEW"

vv.13-14 = "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

- E. You *CAN* tell a book by its cover (good fruit = good tree; bad fruit...)

(A Tree and Its Fruit) 7:15-20 = "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You **will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 **A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.** 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 **Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.****

- Lips lie, lives tell the truth...
- Again, "be shrewd as a serpent..."

- F. This is NO TIME FOR SURPRISES...

(Some SHOCKED on Judgment Day...) 7:21-23 = "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

***** BUILD your Relationship vs. your Resume!**

- G. Dead or Alive? DEVESTATED or DELIVERED?

(Build Your House on the Rock) 7:24-27 = "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man

*who built his house on the sand. **27** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."*

KEY: Inspect under the foundation vs. the exterior appearance

Even the greatest of SAND Castles... will get washed away!

VIDEO: David Wilkerson: "*You're Changing*"

The "shifting sands" of spiritual "drift" is DEADLY!

Close: *The Authority of Jesus*

***28** And when Jesus finished these sayings, **the crowds** were **astonished** at his teaching, **29** for he was teaching them as one who had **authority**, and not as their scribes.*

T/S: NOTE: "large/giant crowds followed Him..."

vs.

120 (Church) at ascension!