

Matthew Chapters Five through Seven Revisited

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~ Now that we have concluded our formal safari commentary of the Sermon on the Mount, we're going to look back in hindsight to obtain a 20/20 vision in a fully focused clarity which will allow us to conclude with a full-orbed comprehensive view of this discourse. Many things I have said in our last three reports were new and strange to most people. Some might say radical or revolutionary. Many people feel the Sermon on the Mount was given to us so we would know how the church is to conduct itself today. So, that makes it necessary for us to step back and examine three systems that God has revealed to us and by which He overrules in the affairs of mankind.

The first system is the Mosaic System of Levitical Law. In Genesis, God destroyed the entire human race due to their violence and because every imagination in their hearts was evil continually. A world that had departed from God was judged and only one man and his family escaped that judgment. Noah became the father of all people and God proclaimed that all people would be a witness for Him. Then He chose His people in Jacob by faith. God gave Israel a land and made them to prosper - and God made them a blessing to the world by the prophets. Through those eschatological written records God has reached this lost and dying world today.

At the heart of the Mosaic Law was animal sacrifice in the tabernacle – and later the temple; a ritual we shall become well-acquainted with when we return to the Old Testament in our study of Exodus and Leviticus. The sacrifice speaks of Christ's death on the cross; the entire Mosaic ritualistic ceremony speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ. God NEVER forgave any sins unless a sacrifice was made under the Mosaic Law. It was done this way because the law does not save man. The law only reveals we are sinners that need a Savior. Ultimately, the Mosaic Law became a system of condemnation and not salvation; which is why the Old Testament constantly points to the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to this earth and offered Himself as a King. His incarnation in His First Advent was to fulfill the prophecies in the Old Testament. Israel summarily rejected Him as the Messiah – and does to this day. In Matthew, we are considering Christ as the King. This entire Gospel must be examined in the light of Christ as our King. This book has already indicated He was born a King, lived as the King, died as the King and rose again from the dead as our King! When Christ returns, He will still be the King. One of Christ's primary missions to this earth was to annunciate the law. The law Jesus gives is different from the Mosaic Law, though.

Keep in mind, we're post-examining three specific chapters now – the Sermon on the Mount – chapters five, six and seven of Matthew. Excerpts are found in other Gospel accounts, but here we have the fullest extent of this sermon – although I doubt this is complete, either. I'm sure this is an abridged edition. The evidence is that only two of the Ten Commandments were taken by Jesus and expounded on; and on a much higher plane than they are ever interpreted in the Old Testament. Remember, if we are angry at our brother without a cause we are guilty of murder? We never heard anything like that in the Old Testament. If we so much as look at another person in lust we are guilty of adultery, also; and that convicts more than ninety-nine percent of the human race! Very few of us, male or female, can separate ourselves away from these convictions. Many men and women have been spiritually raped in just a casual meeting as they undress each other with the eyes. It can be done without anyone even knowing your doing it! I wish Jesus had taught on all the other laws in Matthew. Candidly, I don't think man could handle that teaching.

The Sermon on the Mount lifts the law of the future coming Millennial Kingdom up to the nth degree; but we must keep in mind that this the law for the Kingdom that is yet to be established on this earth. That's when we shall receive the unabridged edition of the law as it becomes available for inspection and implementation. We should note that is AFTER the true and living church is called to be with Christ in the air in the rapture. There are many great and lofty principals given in the Sermon on the Mount; however, we have a different system today. We live in what the Bible calls the Age of Grace. More specifically, this is the age of the Holy Spirit. We simply cannot follow this law or any laws today, for that matter. Mankind

breaks mankind's laws - and God's laws - all day long without thought or reservation.

You will never be saved by anything you do and, quite frankly, you're not a Christian until you have a proper, correct and complete Biblical belief. If you are unsure, then you are a make-believer. The only way to have assurance is to look into the Word of God. The core of understanding that remains so elusive is that Christ died for our sins. Teaching the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the method whereby He moves into others lives and establishes His Kingdom in their hearts – according to Scripture. The death of the Lord Jesus is important because Christ didn't survive the Roman cross. He didn't just hang there until His disciples could help Him down and nurse Him back to health. No one survived a Roman crucifixion, you may be sure. Then, the Lord Jesus arose and made Himself known and showed Himself to His own. That, my friends, is the Gospel. That is our saving information when we reach out and react to it in faith. Nothing else in this world will bring you from a convicted mind into peace in this world. There is no method, theory, theology or philosophy of salvation apart from the saving grace of God – done His way!

Of course, after we are saved God has a way He desires for us to live for Him. That life is NOT the law and it's not the Ten Commandments; it's much, much higher than that. I have experience with all of the great denominations, and I am familiar with their form of education and how each approaches it. Once they get to sanctification they drag in the Ten Commandments - which nobody keeps - and it only seems to be a problem that YOU don't keep them. Well, if everyone did keep them – which no one does – but if they did, that still wouldn't save us because God isn't accepting anything on our grounds or conditions, friends. This is all going to be done His way or no way, as they say, in the Kingdom of Heaven. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is what we're in need of today. Thank God it's available to us.

Being a Christian is not a way of life, per se. We are not called to live a "Christian life." I challenge you to show me one single Scriptural reference to living a Christian life; but this doesn't mean we are to live however we want to live, either. We have another way of life, one that is much higher

than any other way of life on earth, and that is to esteem others better than ourselves and to consider the welfare of others above our own. Stop and consider which law in the Sermon on the Mount you might possibly believe you are able to keep. Now go talk to Jesus about it in prayer. While you consider all of that read this cautionary disclaimer: I have some very startling statements coming up right now. You definitely will want to pray a moment for judgment and discernment and wisdom and knowledge and power of thought from the Holy Spirit before you even waste one more thought molecule with my so-called safari report:

Teaching this passage of Scripture known as the Sermon on the Mount has made more hypocrites than all other sections of doctrine in the entire Word of God combined. The Sermon on the Mount is NOT some decent doctrine that's up for a vote of approval in the church. The Lord Jesus says specifically several times in these three chapters that whosoever DOES these commands are blessed. It makes NO provision for those who try and fail – they're OUT of the camp. Now, if this message isn't terrifying you into a psychological nightmare; then, by all means, read on:

The Sermon on the Mount is simply a religious veneer that too many people wear as an assumption. Their hearts and lives are not changed or softened toward the things of Christ. They never support the cause of Christ. The indifference makes very cold Christians - because it's all just a charade. Liberalism, as we have seen in previous reports, is in politics - and it is in theology, too. We talked about the brotherhood of man; and if you're just starting out with our Spiritual Safari you will want to go all the way back to Guidelines and begin there - and then read Genesis. Well, the international brotherhood of mankind is contradicted again right here by the Lord Jesus Himself through Matthew.

These are the religious rulers Jesus is speaking to when He says, "you are of your father, the devil and the works of your father you will do." Evidently, there were some that weren't calling God their Father! The universal fatherhood of God doesn't seem to apply at this point in our Bible which means it doesn't apply today. We attempt to deal with each other today in a spirit of "brotherly love." The world hates America today and those who do not hate us envy us, which is just as bad. America has spent trillions of

dollars on peace and, yet, we have no peace! The world knows no peace because the principals of the Sermon on the Mount aren't going to fit us in this present world system. Politicians since day one have tried to implement these principals in our governments, and they have failed every time. Is there anything good here, then? Yes, of course, it's ALL good. So, what's wrong? The heart of man is what's wrong. Man is mankind's problem, friends; let's not kid ourselves anymore.

We, as human beings, do not have any problems – we ARE the problem. There is nothing wrong with God revealing His mind for us and to us – but there is something radically wrong with our understanding in our natural state. God ALSO says there is something very wrong with our hearts; in fact, our righteousness is as filthy rags. What we are reading in Matthew are the words the Lord Jesus would preach if He stood in front of your congregation right now. Unless, of course, Jesus had to quote to you from Deuteronomy! If we listen to Him, He will tell us where the problems are.

You see, the things that proceed out of the mouth come forward from the heart and that is what defiles the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, lies and blasphemies; these are the things that defile a man. You may have a religion whereby you wash your hands and do gymnastics for the ritual or liturgy – but – your HEART is your problem. If the heart is right the ritual is right – if the heart is wrong the ritual is wrong. Always. Every time. No exceptions. It's heart trouble that man has today - and cardio workouts aren't helping. Man needs more Jesus and less jogging because Christ alone can change the heart of a man. I said in Guidelines that the number one proof for me as to the reality of the Bible is a transformed life. When I pray for someone and see them change - it's a miracle, friend; make no mistake about it. This is the miracle known as regeneration. Let's call it healing. Nicodemus was a very respectable Pharisee to whom Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Of course, that passage has been verse grabbed; mis-used and abused into near meaninglessness - but when considered properly it is a miraculous truth. You and I have an old nature that will have to be regenerated. The Lord Jesus right now is talking about YOUR heart. YOUR heart and MY heart is the problem today amongst men, my beloved.

Paul gives a litany of the things that come naturally from the heart of man in Galatians chapter five. It's a bad bunch of stuff. Today, we live in a society governed by situation ethics that vie to excuse gross immorality. The so-called Judeo-Christian ethic has been all but abandoned. Man does as man pleases and thinks what he wants to think; irrespective of facts and truth. The Ph.D graduate will tell you anything is right if it makes you feel good. According to that philosophy, if it makes you feel good to kill your family and shoot heroin it must be perfectly alright? No, friends, when man has the restrictions removed he abandons God wholesale. The Mosaic Law was given to control the old fleshly nature; not as a means of salvation. Israel departed from God and the law never saved one single Israelite. Israel got very, very far away from God and that's where they are today.

No matter which way we go in life we can never measure up to the law. So, we still have the question, "...how are we to esteem others better than ourselves and consider the welfare of others above our own?" If you're honest, you'll admit you can't keep that standard today. The answer is that we are not to live by our own effort - because we can't make it. However, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, loving kindness, temperance – and against these things there is no law. If you receive those blessings in your life then you won't have any problem placing the welfare of others above your own. No law can produce these things in the heart of a man, either. Impossible. Let's keep things real, shall we?

Love is not naturally in you – maybe sex or some shallow emotional connection exists – but not a genuine supernatural agape love for others. We're talking about real and genuine concern for others as the result of a real love for God! A true love for the Lord Jesus Christ, my friend, does NOT come naturally for anyone. When man does what comes naturally it results in what we have in our contemporary civilization – chaos! The world is as lawless and as violent as it ever has been before at any age in history. There is now a serious question in the minds of sincere and correct thinking, high-minded men about whether we can survive as a nation any longer.

Blessed be the poor in spirit, they shall inherit the earth – but that's not happening today, friends. That Scripture just doesn't work out as a religion.

The mourning are not comforted today, either; but when those people come out of the Great Tribulation – they’re going to be comforted – by Christ Himself. That’s what eschatology is all about, my beloved: Him. I know people who are mourning right now, and they are NOT being comforted. Ask the people in the third world country if the meek are inheriting the earth today. Ask them what happens when they approach their president with meekness. Many countries are completely down the drain today. Any missionary will confirm there are no meek people inheriting the earth today. All of mankind’s problems are the direct result of a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God.

Some day the meek will inherit the earth. That inheritance won’t take place until the King returns, though. That’s what the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew is all about. Christ will rule in power and in righteousness when He puts down all rebellion on this earth. How are we to live today? – We are to esteem others better than ourselves and consider the welfare of others above our own. That can only ever be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul said, “....we rejoice in our suffering.” That’s the only way we’ll ever have eternal joy. Be honest, do you have the joy of your salvation today? We all like to be pat on the back because we are proud people. Well, maybe not YOU - but I am! I need the meekness of the Holy Spirit and, if you’re honest, I think you’ll agree: so do you! God, make us meek through and fill us with Your Holy Spirit ~

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