

## Faith for the Present

“A Life Build Upon the Rock: The Point of the Sermon”

Sunday, October 11, 2020

- \* All throughout The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching about this “new life in this New Kingdom!”
- \* He is constantly saying “the Law said” but “I say!” “I know you used to live by such and such standard, but I have raised the standard!”
- \* Then Christ contrasted the “false righteousness” of the Pharisees to the “true righteousness” of this New Kingdom!
- \* A righteousness that comes from change not control!
- \* We see Jesus telling us that we need to “focus on our own sin” rather than the “sin of others” as part of the true righteousness. (remember the speck and log)
- \* Remember the Beatitudes!
  - a) Realize your utter desperation for God
  - b) Mourn for your fallen condition
  - c) Hunger to be right with God
  - d) Keep your heart pure and unmixed with the world
  - e) Make for peace in every situation in life
- \* Jesus says His desire is that we are “salt and light” to the world around us!
- \* He then says that righteousness is about “change and

not control!”

- \* Jesus says His Spirit will empower us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek or refuse to retaliate!
- \* Live your faith out first inside our hearts and then to your world!
- \* Jesus says to learn to “value what God values” and to concentrate on our own sin and not others!
- \* THE FINAL WORDS OF JESUS ON THE MOUNT WERE THAT LIVING LIFE ACCORDING TO THIS “NEW KINGDOM WAY” IS HOW WE HAVE A LIFE BUILD ON SOLID GROUND!

Matthew 7:24-29 (NLT)

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

- I. When we read the words of our Lord from the Sermon on the Hillside, we MUST realize that He is literally inaugurating a new way to live in this world!
  - A. These are not just “words to memorize in Sunday School!”
    - 1. The teachings of Jesus are not just “philosophical words” that make us nicer people!

2. Neither are they principles that we will “one day” enjoy in our eternal home!
3. These are principles of life when we live “from another kingdom!”

Colossians 1:11-13 (NLT)

11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, 12 always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. 13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.

- a) Will you need endurance in heaven?
- b) Will you need patience in heaven?
- c) Will you need extra joy in heaven?

B. At some point we **MUST** realize that the work of Christ in our life **IS FOR NOW!**

Ephesians 2:1-6 (NLT)

2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. 4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

II. Jesus could not have been more clear about HOW we live life upon a firm foundation!

26 “But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.”

A. We need to realize that God is the “designer of life” and He knows how it is best lived!

1. For some reason we have relegated these words and others to merely “Jesus wanting us to jump through religious hoops!”
2. They are actually “words of life” that bless us and cause us to live in His blessings of life!

Psalm 119:105-107, 130 (NLT)

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

I’ve promised it once, and I’ll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations. I have suffered much, O Lord;

restore my life again as you promised. The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

B. So HOW does all of this work? How do these principles of life become “change agents” in my life?

James 1:21-25 (NLT)

21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. 22 But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

1. What exactly is confusing or difficult about this and other sayings of scripture?
2. James even gives us an analogy or example here!
3. A lack of “practicing and living God’s life standard” will cause us to forget the life of God!
4. We will revert back to living according to the “world’s standards” of fear, lack, confusion and desperation!
5. There is a better life out there!! It is found in Jesus Christ!
6. I’m not talking about living and miserable life just so you can go to heaven one day!
7. I’m talking about a life of walking with God in fellowship NOW! Being at peace NOW! Feeling secure NOW!
8. This is why the people listening to Jesus on the hillside said:

28 “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.”

28 By the time Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were dazed and overwhelmed by his teaching, 29 because his words carried such great authority, quite unlike their religious scholars.