

Faith for the Present
“Learning to Live in the Change”
Sunday, September 6, 2020

- * A statement we have made over and over again is that in this Sermon on the Mount Jesus was inaugurating a new way to live in His Kingdom in the world!
- * When listening to the words of The Lord you are forced to respond one of three (3) ways:
 1. Ignore His words
 2. Spiritualize or philosophize His words
 3. Or live His words
- * Your response will determine whether you are a disciple and a true follower of Christ!
- * Jesus begins by sharing what we call the Beatitudes! These are descriptions of someone who has the Spirit and presence of God in their lives!!
- * For example; “You have the divine nature of God when you realize your utter need for God in your life. Because of this you will walk in God’s Kingdom realm!”
- * Or this; “You are motivated and influenced by God’s divine nature when you desire more than anything to be right with God!”
- * Or maybe this; "You are moved by God’s Spirit when you are intently focused on your relationship with God and unmixed with the influences of the world!”
- * Then The Lord proceeds to describe how this inward change in our lives are to works its way out and completely transforms our behavior!

* All of these lessons are archived for your convenience!

Matthew 6:19-24 (NLT)

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. *(Does Jesus suddenly change subjects here?)*

22 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

(Then Jesus explains His words!)

24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

I. As we remember the overlying theme of this magnificent Sermon, which is literally the direction and basis for life in this New Kingdom Jesus is establishing, we see continually the DICHOTOMY OF TWO LIVES!

A. Remember the many prophetic scriptures about this new life, this new way to live and this new kingdom God establishes as He redeems His creation!

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NLT)

25 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

1. After the resurrection and on The Day of Pentecost God did just that! He “poured out His Spirit!”
2. He removed our “stubborn stoney heart” and gave us a heart that is capable of being sensitive to Him!

B. Remember, this new life is ALL ABOUT CHANGE!

1. Change so that our hearts can “treasure Him” and not the things of this world!
2. Change so that we can give ourselves to Him and focus on Him and not have divided loyalty with the world!
3. That is exactly what Jesus just said in the Sermon!

II. This “inside work of God’s Spirit” is what Paul spends much time addressing to The Churches in his letters!

2 Corinthians 4:1-7 (NLT)

1 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. 2 We reject all shameful deeds and un-derhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. 3 If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. 4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 5 You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

- A. Notice that both Ezekiel and Paul speak of this indwelling presence of God changes our behavior!
 - 1. Both say that this “indwelling presence” is a “treasure!”
 - 2. We have this “treasure” in our hearts so we can live out the “change” in our lives!
 - 3. And this “change” is by the “power of God” and not just some decision we make to live differently!
- B. Notice the PROGRESSION Paul shared to Corinth!
 - 1. After we come to Christ we are “being transformed!”

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

- 2. Don't loose heart in the process!

II Corinthians 4:1 (NLT)

1 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up.

- 3. We have to “take a stand!”

II Corinthians 4:2 (NLT)

2 We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.

4. None of this is about "our abilities!"

2 Corinthians 4:5 (NLT)

5 You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake.

5. Notice that all of God's creative power has gone into my redemption and inward change!

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NLT)

6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

C. As Jesus said, if our spiritual vision is good, it would bring God's light to our lives! Our challenge is seeing with God's light...this new life in His New Kingdom!