

**Sermon of the New Kingdom**  
**“The Heart of the Matter”**  
**Sunday, September 26, 2021**

- \* We have been looking at The Sermon on the Mount and the inauguration of this new Kingdom Life that Jesus taught!
  
- \* Jesus spoke of a completely new way to live in the world and a completely new life that comes from the inside and works outward until it affects all of life!
  
- \* He spoke of the inward change that gave way to an outward change! He explained how this literally fulfilled the purpose of the Old Law. Not just “control” but true inward “change”!
  
- \* Then Jesus explains further:

Matthew 5:21-30

21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ 22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. 23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. 25 “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say,

anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

I. So, here is the question: What in the world is Jesus saying?

A. Is He not explaining what He has just spoken?

Matthew 5:20

20 But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

1. There were few that “kept” the Law in such detail as the Pharisees!
2. Remember, Jesus said that the Law may have said “don’t murder, but I say don’t even become angry!”
3. He said, “The Law says don’t commit adultery, but I say don’t even lust!”
4. Jesus is explaining that His “works of righteousness” is NOT about behavior, but rather about the condition of Man’s fallen sinful heart!

B. Remember Ephesians 2:1-10!

1 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. 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. 8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

1. “You lived just like the rest of the world!”
2. “Following the passionate desires and inclinations of the flesh!”
3. “Following the world’s thoughts!”

II. Isn’t this NEW LIFE in Christ the ONLY WAY to live out The Sermon on the Mount?

A. The point of the matter is God’s Spirit living in us!

### Galatians 3:1-5

1 What has happened to you foolish Galatians? Who has put you under an evil spell? Did God not open your eyes to see the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion? Was he not revealed to you as the crucified one? 2 So answer me this: Did the Holy Spirit come to you as a reward for keeping Jewish laws? No, you received him as a gift because you believed in the Messiah. 3 Your new life began when the Holy Spirit gave you a new birth. Why then would you so foolishly turn from living in the Spirit by trying to finish by your own works? 4 Have you endured so many trials and persecutions for nothing? 5 Let me ask you again: What does the lavish supply of the Holy Spirit in your life and the miracles of God's tremendous power have to do with you keeping religious laws? The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us through the revelation and power of faith!

1. This is only accomplished by "staying connected" to the lordship of Christ in your life!

### John 15:4-5

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. 5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

2. So we see that the whole point of this marvelous redemption is the new life of The Kingdom being lived by and through us!
- B. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Your righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees! Or in other words, it's all about New Life!