

October 10/Day 283

Matthew 5

- Matthew's account of the Beatitudes.

Verse 1

- How many people had followed Jesus up onto the mountain?
- What position was He in when He began to teach them?
- According to verse 2, what did He do when He began to teach them? I know this is basic, but think about it, is this a necessary part of teaching?

Verses 3-12

- Review who is "Blessed" and in what way.

Verse 13

- What is tasteless salt good for?
- Salt is meant to enhance flavor, as a preservative, and as a wound healing agent. We get our word "salary" from salt and soldiers were often paid their salary in salt.

Verses 14-16

- What is the purpose of light?
- If it exposes darkness, do we hide it or let it shine?
- What, according to the text, is the purpose for good works?

Verses 17-19

- What did Jesus come to do in regard to the law?
- What happens to a person who annuls a commandment and teaches others to do the same? What are we told in contrast?

Verse 20

- Think about the context. We just saw that the purpose of our good works is to glorify God. What must our righteousness surpass in order for us to inherit the kingdom of heaven? How is this possible? Keep reading...

Verses 21-26

- What did Jesus say in regard to murder? "But I say to you..."
- Why is the example of the courts given?

Verses 27-31

- What did Jesus have to say about adultery? “But I say to you...”
- This is how our righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, but how is it possible to be this perfect? Is it possible? Then, how do we obtain this righteousness?

Verses 31-32

- What does Jesus have to say about divorce? “But I say...”
- Many people take these verses out of context and use them to condemn those who have been divorced and many are never allowed to serve in church because of it. The purpose of Jesus bringing this up, in context, is to show us we can never have a righteousness which surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees. We can never be good enough. We can only receive the righteousness of Jesus, according to His free gift.
- Life happens to people. We can not force a partner to stay in a marriage relationship and sometimes it is dangerous to do so. We all sin, yet divorce seems to be the only sin by which a person can't serve or minister in church and this is because of Scripture taken out of context.

Verses 33-37

- People say “Yes” to all sorts of things they shouldn't say yes to because they want to please others or they don't want to let others down. But when we do this, then sometimes we resent having said yes because the thing we said yes to isn't within our capacity to achieve, or isn't within our gift. It is okay to say “No” and we find when we know our spiritual gifts and are in step with God's purpose for our lives, it is not so very hard to say no. This opens up a door for others to serve within their gifts and capacities as well.

Verses 38-42

- “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth” seems to be contradictory to turning the other cheek. First, we would do well to know that the quote from the Old Testament is in regard to setting up government and how government is to respond in judgment of cases. Turning the other cheek is relational.

Verses 43-48

- What does He say we need to do for our enemy and those who persecute us?
- How is it possible to love an enemy?
- Notice, we WILL have enemies and we WILL have persecution.
- What does this passage say about the sun and the rain? So, when God uses these elements to judge a nation, who will receive the affects?
- What benefit do we have if we only love people who love us?
- It is impossible to be perfect, as we have seen in this context. So, if verse 48 says we are to be perfect, how is this possible?

Matthew 6

Verse 1

- If we are practicing our righteousness, what kind of righteousness is it?
- If we are doing our righteous deeds in front of others, what kind of righteousness is it?
- If we do our righteousness to be noticed, what kind of righteousness is it?
- What does this say about our reward?

Verses 2-4

- This passage is not about literally sounding a trumpet, it is still about doing good things in order for others to notice. What did Jesus call people who did this?
- What was their purpose for this?

Verses 5-6

- Hypocrite means “one who wears a mask”. He’s fake, false, and phony. He is like an actor. He may be doing good things, but the motivation is wrong because the heart is not right.
- How did the hypocrites pray?
- Why did they do this?
- How should we pray?
- What does this say about rewards?

Verses 7-8

- Following is what we refer to as “The Lord’s Prayer”. He doesn’t necessarily mean we have to recite these exact words (though there’s nothing wrong with it), but that this is a good example of how to pray.

Verses 9-10

- Notice the prayer begins with acknowledging and praising God as well as praying His will over our requests.

Verses 11-13

- Then He begins His petitions, confessions, and intercessions.

Verses 14-15

- What happens if we hold onto unforgiveness in our hearts?

Verses 16-17

- What do hypocrites do when they fast?

Verses 19-21

- What happens to our “things” on earth? How does this passage refer to our things?
- What is contrasted here?

Verses 22-23

- Watch the context here. He is talking about our “things”. Material things and greed can cloud our vision.

Verse 24

- Wherever our treasure is, there will our heart be, so this is why we can not serve both God and wealth. There is nothing wrong with wealth and every dime comes from God, but idolatry is found in serving wealth.

Verses 25-33

- While we're on the subject of wealth and treasure, what is He talking about here?
- So, what then is the root source of our worry? That God won't actually take care of us, we have to do something about it ourselves by eagerly seeking after them like the Gentiles?
- What should we seek after first? Then what will happen?

Verse 34

- I always say the past is a memory and the future is an imagination. Scripture tells us to “cast down imaginations” (2 Cor 10:5). Not that we wouldn't plan for the future financially, but that we wouldn't fret over it. God is already there.

Matthew 7

Verses 1-5

- Many people can quote Matthew 7:1, but not many know the context is in how we actually are supposed to judge. And the purpose is so that we can, after examining ourselves by taking the log out of our eye, approach a brother in love to help him get the splinter out of his eye without harming him. Paul says later we are not to judge outside the church, for they are judged already (1 Cor 5:12). This passage does not mean we are never to judge.

Verse 6

- If we never judge, how would we know the dogs from the swine. Scripture never refers to believers as dogs or swine.

Verses 7-11

- Why are we to ask, seek, and knock?

Verse 12

- How are we supposed to treat others?

Verses 13-14

- How many are on the wide and broad way to destruction?
- How many are on the small and narrow way leading to life?
- Is there application for us?

Verses 15-20

- If we are to beware of false prophets, would this require making a judgment?
- How will we know them?
- If we are to recognize their bad fruit, would this require making a judgment?

Verses 21-23

- Some will stand before Jesus and say they called Him Lord. They will say they cast out demons in His name. They will say they performed miracles in His name. But what will He say?
- Does it seem here that the false prophets have even deceived themselves?

Verses 24-27

- What happens to a house built on a firm foundation (a rock) when a storm comes?
- What about the house built upon the sand? Have you ever stood on the beach when the waves took the sand out from under your feet?
- What does all this have to do with judging, and fruit, and false prophets?
- What is our application?

Verse 28

- What was the teaching of Jesus like?

See you tomorrow.