

“REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE MAY PERSONALLY THINK OR BELIEVE ABOUT HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE FOR ALMOST TWENTY CENTURIES.”
(JAROSLAV PELIKAN, *JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES*)

“The Teachings of Jesus: Sermons”

1. Introduction
 - a. Jesus was a great teacher
 - b. the Synoptics vary considerably in the amount and kind of teaching they contain
 - 1) Mark: very little teaching
 - 2) Luke: More than Mark
 - 3) Matthew: Unique among the three in that he has several sermons in his collection
 - Those 5 discourses are:
 - Mt. 5-7 Sermon on Mount
 - Mt. 10 Mission/Servanthood
 - Mt. 13 Parables of Kingdom
 - Mt.18 Relationships in Kingdom
 - Mt. 24-25 Olivet Discourse (last days)
2. **Sermon on Mount: chapters 5-7**
 - a. General observations
 - **Purpose:** re-interpret the law of God so that people understood it as heart righteousness rather than simply behavioral righteous
 - Key Verse: **5:17** – “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
 - b. The Beatitudes (5:1-12)
 - “Blessed” => fortunate, happy, well off; blessed of God
 - Latin: “*1beatitudo*” => happy or blessed
 - Jesus begins with core values of Kingdom, then moves into specific ethical issues
 - **5:3** – “poor in spirit” => recognition of our own need and willingness to admit that need
 - **5:4** – “those who mourn” => those in touch with their pain
 - **5:5** – “meek” => willingness to let go of control
 - **5:6** – “hunger/thirst for righteousness” => desire to know God
 - **5:7** – “merciful” => extend God’s grace to others
 - **5:8** – pure in heart” => live authentically (real)
 - **5:9** - “peacemakers” => bring healing out of conflict
 - **5:10** – “persecuted for righteousness sake” => faithful regardless of the cost

Summary: core values of Kingdom of God
 - c. Matt. 5:13-16: Salt and Light

d. Matt. 5:17-20: The Purpose of this Sermon

- “..not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to fulfill them...” (5:17)
- “...righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees...” (5:20)

e. Ethical examples:

- 1) Matt. 5:21-26 – Murder vs. anger
- 2) Matt. 5:27-30 – Adultery
- 3) Matt. 5:31-32 – Divorce
- 4) Matt. 5:33-37 – Oaths
- 5) Matt. 5:38-42 – Revenge and generosity
- 6) Matt. 5:43-48 – Love for Enemies
- 7) Matt. 5:48 – “Be perfect...”

f. Religious sincerity:

Issue: do you practice your religion in order to be seen by other people or out of genuine love for God?

- 1) Matt. 6:1-4 – Giving to the Needy
- 2) Matt. 6:5-15 - Prayer
- 3) Matt. 6:16-18 – Fasting

g. Personal Faith and Trust:

- 1) Matt. 6:19-24 – What do you really value?
- 2) Matt. 6:25-34 – Futility of worry
- 3) Matt. 7:1-6 – Judging others
- 4) Matt. 7:7-12 – ask, seek, knock
- 5) Matt. 7:13-14 – narrow gate
- 6) Matt. 7:15-20 – know them by their fruit
- 7) Matt. 7:21-27 – wise and foolish builder
- 8) Matt. 7:28-29 – Jesus’ authority