

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, November 15, 2020

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 15. Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:1-2

Pastor Phillip M Way

I. Introduction

- A. A Full Sermon or Short Summation? – **Matt. 15:32**
- B. The Collected Teachings of Jesus in Matthew – Chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, 23-24
- C. “The perfect picture of life in the Kingdom of God.” - MLJ

II. The Nature of Kingdom Citizens

- A. The Kingdom of God is in You – the reign of God in the Church – **Luke 17:21**
- B. An Impossible Standard of Living – Perfection – **Matt. 5:20, 48**
- C. All of Grace

- 1. This is not a legalistic code to keep in order to be saved – it is a new way of living when we have been given new life
 - a. Law drives us to grace because law keeping is impossible and cannot bring salvation – **Gal. 3:24** (law drives us to faith for justification)
 - b. Grace empowers us to keep the Law not merely outwardly, but in the inner man – in our thoughts, motives, and desires – **Phil. 2:12-13**
 - c. This grace fueled obedience is evidence of our new life in Christ – this is how believers live
- 2. This is not Old Testament Law restated
 - a. God’s Moral Law is a reflection of His character and He never changes – **Mal. 3:6**
 - 1) But what about **Heb. 7:11-16**?
 - 2) Levitical law that deals with making us “perfect” (atonement/salvation) – ceremonial and sacrificial law points to and is fulfilled in Christ - **Matt. 5:17-18; Heb. 8:13; 9:11-15; 10:8-10**
 - b. It is not legalism – it “is a condemnation of all attempts to please God by law keeping in order that the way may be cleared for a man to come to God by faith in Jesus Christ and to receive new life capable of that which H requires.” – Boice
 - c. Knowing/Doing/Being - “This sermon is not to be regarded as law – a kind of restatement of the Ten Commandments or set of rules and regulations to follow, but rather a description of what we Christians are meant to be.” – MLJ
 - d. Because of WHAT you are, this is how you will face the law of God and live it.
 - e. It is not the mechanical keeping of regulations – the letter (example – cloak, **Matt. 5:40**) – it is the experience, the spirit, the LIFE.
 - f. “We are not told, ‘Live like this and you will become a Christian;’ rather we are told, ‘Because you are a Christian, live like this.’ This is how Christians ought to live; this is how Christians are meant to live.” – MLJ

- 3. Our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees – the grace that powers our life can do what was previously impossible for us to do – **1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:7**
- 4. The rule and reign of Christ governs and controls our heart, mind, and outlook
- D. Law and Gospel
 - 1. The superficiality of the church is seen in outward conformity without inward transformation – **Rom. 12:1-2**
 - 2. Being under grace and not under the law does not mean that we have nothing to do with the law – it means by grace we are no longer under the condemnation of the law.
 - 3. That does not mean we do not need to keep the law – Christ kept the law and He commands us to follow Him

4. “Some so emphasize the law as to turn the gospel of Jesus Christ with its glorious liberty into nothing but a collection of moral maxims. It is all law to them and there is no grace left. They so talk of the Christian life as something that we have to do in order to make ourselves Christian that it becomes pure legalism and there is really no grace in it. But let us remember also that it is equally possible so to overemphasize grace at the expense of law as, again, to have something which is not the gospel of the New Testament.” – MLJ
5. For example – Paul wrote “Where sin abounded grace did much more abound” – so should we sin more in order to gain more grace? God forbid! – **Rom. 5:20; 6:1-2**

III. Why Study the Sermon on the Mount?

- A. Christ died to enable us to live like this – **Titus 2:14**
- B. It shows the absolute necessity of the new birth – **John 3:7**
- C. It points us to Christ – **Matt. 17:5**
- D. It gives us principles by which we may be blessed and how we must live to be pleasing to God – **Heb. 11:6**
- E. It is how we evangelize – this is how we are salt and light – “I am never tired of saying that what the church needs to do is not to organize evangelistic campaigns to attract outside people, but to begin to herself to live the Christian life.”- MLJ

IV. Summary and Conclusion

- A. Written/Preached to Believers/Disciples – **Matt. 5:13-16**
 1. You are the salt of the earth
 2. You are the light of the world
 3. Let your light shine before men
- B. This is How to Love God and Our Neighbor
 1. When the world sees a truly Christian man, it not only feels condemned, it is drawn and attracted!
 2. The sermon states God’s demands, points to God’s supply, and gives us grace to live this sermon daily.
 3. Because of this truth, do this (belief/behavior)
- C. An Overview
 1. Matthew 5:3-10 – The Character of the Christian
 2. Matthew 5:11-12 – The Character of the Christian proved by the reaction of the world
 3. Matthew 5:13-16 – The relationship of the Christian to the world
 4. Matthew 5:17-48 – The Christian living in a fallen world
 5. Matthew 6 – The Christian life in the presence of God – submission and dependence
 6. Matthew 7 – The Christian life in the fear of God – **Heb. 12:28; 1 Peter 4:17**
- D. Conclusion – **Matt. 7:21-23**
 1. It is not your confession – “Lord, Lord”
 2. It is not your church activity
 3. It is not about doing good – **2 Cor. 5:10-11**
 4. It is about a genuine concern that what we do is pleasing to God and knowing we can only please Him by abiding in Christ by faith that leads to obedience – “The Christian is a man whose every action should be performed in the light of his intimate relationship to God.” – MLJ – **1 John 3:1-3**

Cross References

Matthew 15:32

32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

Luke 17:21

21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Matthew 5:20

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:48

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Galatians 3:24

24 Therefore the law was our guardian to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Malachi 3:6

6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change;

Hebrews 7:11-16

11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? 12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. 13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

Matthew 5:17-18

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Hebrews 8:13

13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 9:11-15

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His

own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 10:8-10

8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Matthew 5:40

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:7

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 5:20

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

Romans 6:1-2

6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Titus 2:14

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

John 3:7

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Matthew 17:5

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Hebrews 12:28

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

1 Peter 4:17

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Matthew 7:21-23

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1 John 3:1-3

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

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