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Sermon Notes

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An Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7

There's something alluring, almost magnetic about a mountain... it beckons to us, draws us up, promising good things if we'll just put the effort in to climb.

*White Mountains; *Mount Fuji; *K2 in Karakoram Range in Pakistan; *Half dome in Yosemite; *Cadillac Mountain at Acadia National Park

Elevation gives perspective, clarity of vision, an ability to see the whole...

BUT the mountain of Matthew 5-7 is meant to shatter, to crush us totally before it elevates us... Thomas Linacre, 1520, physician to Henry VIII

“If this is the Gospel, then none of us are Christians!!”

Lloyd-Jones: “The Sermon on the Mount crushes me to the ground again and again.”

Illus: Wet metallization lab

Christ's answer: the Sermon on the Mount

A. Greatest preachers of all time:

1. 20th century: Billy Graham: preached to more people than any man who ever lived; spanned the globe, spoken in almost every nation on earth... today, we consider the sermon of one who was greater than Billy Graham
2. 19th century: Charles Spurgeon: Spurgeon preached to thousands of people before he was even 20 years old... his powerful sermons kept huge crowds enraptured for decades; yet one who was greater than Spurgeon will preach to us today
3. 18th century: George Whitefield: His passionate sermons brought in a revival which united the 13 colonies in one mass of repentance and faith in Christ... but one greater than Whitefield will preach to us today

4. 17th century: John Bunyan: simple tinker came to faith in Christ and began to preach in the countryside of Bedfordshire, England... his book *Pilgrim's Progress* has been translated into more languages than any book other than the Bible..... but one greater than Bunyan will preach to us today
5. 16th century: Martin Luther: his preaching shook the German nation and transformed the history of the world... but one greater than Luther will preach to us today

King Solomon, dressed in all his splendor, sat on his royal throne and preached wisdom from God to people who came from distant lands to hear him... the Queen of Sheba also came and tested him with hard questions and was overwhelmed at his answers and the splendor of his court:

“How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!”

BUT today, all of you are more blessed than those who heard Solomon's wisdom, for today one greater than Solomon will speak a greater wisdom than Solomon's

Today, we listen to the longest recorded sermon of the greatest preacher that ever lived... Jesus Christ, the King of the Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus our sacrifice... Jesus our King... BUT also Jesus our prophet

John 7:46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does.”

II. General introduction

- A. Theme of Matthew's Gospel: The Kingdom of Heaven and its perfect King
- B. Importance of Sermon on the Mount
 1. Necessity of the NEW BIRTH
 2. Driving us to Christ
 3. God's pattern for happiness and true success
 4. Resource for witnessing
 5. Pattern for pleasing God
- C. Characteristic of modern church age: Superficiality
 1. Frivolity of evangelism

2. Shallow concepts of sanctification & ongoing discipleship

D. Bible absolutely central remedy!

1. Sole authority
2. Shallow handling of scripture a main cause

E. Apply to Sermon on the Mount

1. Over emphasis on salvation by grace above
2. Neglect of obedience

KEY: What do you do with Sermon on the Mount?

F. Faulty approaches to Sermon on the Mount

1. Social gospel: “We can bring The Kingdom in ourselves:

WWI & WWII destroyed that

2. “This is just The Mosaic Law intensified”

But fails to account for Beatitudes, which go entirely beyond the laws of Moses

3. Dispensational view (Scofield Study Bible): Sermon on the Mount not for us!

Meant for Jews, but they rejected Christ- church age came as after thought. But no ethical command in sermon not also found in writings of Paul, John & James

4. Shallow evangelical view: just meant to force us to Christ... and it stops there!

Romans 8:4 ... in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

G. Right approach:

1. Matthew’s intent – writing to Jews to correct material views of Kingdom of Heavens

No- It’s internal & spiritual, reaches to core of being – “Kingdom of God is within you” Matthew puts true teaching up at front of Gospel. Not: “Live like this & you will become Christians:

But: “Because you are Christians, live like this”

THIS IS HOW CHRISTIANS ARE EXPECTED TO LIVE

THIS IS HOW CHRISTIANS ARE ENABLED TO LIVE

THIS IS HOW CHRISTIANS ARE EMPOWERED TO LIVE

H. Why should we try to study The Sermon on the Mount & Why should we try to live it out?

1. “The Lord Jesus Christ died to enable us to live The Sermon on the Mount”!!
Titus 2:14 “zealous of good works”
2. Clearest demonstration of need for new birth

NO ONE can live The Sermon on the Mount without Holy Spirit

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: “The Beatitudes crush me to the ground. They show me my utter helplessness. Were it not for the new birth, I am undone.”

The Sermon on the Mount drives you to Christ

3. The Sermon on the Mount way to true **happiness on earth!**
If you want power for holiness in your life, go straight to SM (18) DIRECT ROAD TO BLESSING!
4. Most powerful means of evangelism
 - If FBC lived out SM we’d have people banging on our doors asking how to join us

CHURCH IS MOST ATTRACTIVE TO THE LOST WHEN IT IS LEAST LIKE THE WORLD. LIVE IT AS YOU PREACH IT!

III. Overview & General Analysis

A. Shouldn’t “miss the forest for the trees”

Illus: One hour over Denali

- danger of looking so closely at each tree we miss the beauty of all the forest
- Like beautiful symphony in which individual notes can only be understood together w. whole piece

B. Individual verses hard to understand...

“Turn the other cheek”, “Give to the one who asks” “Love your enemies” “Cut off your right hand”

C. Beautiful logical sequence to Sermon on the Mount

- **NOT AN ACCIDENT**
- Beatitudes first for a reason
- Can't ask Christian conduct from person who's not empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Beatitudes show us what Christ does in us to accomplish the rest of the commands

D. General: Norms of Kingdom Life... 5:3-16

Particular: Case Studies in Kingdom Life... 5:17- 7:24

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|---|---------------------|--|----------------------------|
| - | General: 5:3-16 | | Particular: 5:17- 7:24 |
| | Broad Statements | | Specific aspects of life & |
| | About the Christian | | Christian conduct |

| | | | |
|----|----------|----------------|--|
| E. | General: | 5:3-10 | Character of the Christian described |
| | | 5:11-12 | Character of Christian proved by reaction of the world |
| | | <u>5:13-16</u> | <u>Function of Christian in society/in world</u> |

5:17-48 THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

(HEART RIGHTEOUSNESS TO NEIGHBOR)

- 5:17-20 Proper view of the Law of Moses
- 5:21-26 Dealing with anger
- 5:27-30 Dealing with lust

- 5:31-32 Dealing with divorce
- 5:33-37 Oaths
- 5:38-47 Dealing with those who oppose you... “Love your enemies”
- 5:48 SUMMARY: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

6:1-34 HEAVENLY RELIGION IN A PHYSICAL WORLD

(HEART RIGHTEOUSNESS IN PRESENCE OF GOD)

- 6:1-4 Secret giving: from one beggar to another
- 6:5-15 Secret prayer: a cry of the heart for true righteousness
- 6:16-18 Secret fasting: yearning for heart purity
- 6:19-24 Secret treasures: in heaven not on earth
- 6:25-34 Earthly reward: spiritual freedom in a physical world

7:1-24 LIVING UNDER GOD’S ASSESSMENT

(HEART RIGHTEOUSNESS IN VIEW OF THE LAST DAY)

- 7:1-5 Freedom to love, not to judge
- 7:6 Freedom to discern properly
- 7:7-11 Freedom to trust completely
- 7:12 Freedom to live for others

7:13-27 Conclusion: The Two Ways

(HEART RIGHTEOUSNESS IN VIEW OF THE LAST DAY)

- 7:13-14 Two Paths
- 7:15-20 Two Trees
- 7:21-23 Two Claims

- 7:24-27 Two Houses

IV. Guiding Principles

- A. Meant to crush self-reliance... it makes us “poor in spirit”
- B. Not new law, but powerful description of what Christ has bought for us
 1. Christ expects this of us
 2. Christ will assess us on this
 3. Christ will enable us to live this
- C. If you find yourself arguing with it...
 1. you haven’t understood it properly
 2. you’re fighting Christ
- D. Revival and fruit for FBC!!!

Illus. Stories of revival