

Sermon On The Mount 1 – Introduction

God met with Moses alone on Mt. Sinai. The people were not permitted to go up the mountain with Moses. They were not even allowed to touch the mountain lest they die.

Exo 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

Exo 19:17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

Exo 19:18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Exo 19:19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Exo 19:20 And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

Exo 19:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

Exo 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

Exo 20:21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

What a contrast between God speaking from Mt. Sinai to the people through Moses and the gentle Savior speaking to the people directly while seated on this mountain in Israel. It is the same God speaking in both cases. On Mount Sinai it was God speaking forth the Law to a spiritually dead people. But on this mountain it is God speaking prophetically to His own children, born of His own Spirit. It is God speaking to us by His Son.

Heb 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

The Sermon On The Mount is God speaking with all men through Jesus Christ. Each man heard Jesus for himself. He did not need a priest or a prophet to hear Jesus first and then pass it on to him. Every believer now has direct access to the mind of Christ.

Luke 16:16 lets us know for sure that Jesus is preaching the kingdom of God, not the old covenant Mosaic law. He has not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

Luk 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

“The law and the prophets were until John.” The key to understanding the Sermon On The Mount is the knowledge that Jesus is speaking to you as a born again child of God. This is prophetic to us who live in this time period after His resurrection. It is as if this is a training lesson for newborn children of God, instructing us how we are to function while wearing sinful flesh and while living in a fallen world.

If you try to understand the Sermon On The Mount from the perspective of a lost sinner trying to measure up to a legalistic standard, you are doomed to failure. The Sermon On The Mount is for children of God only. It is a higher standard than the Mosaic law. Unregenerate men could not even measure up to the Mosaic Law, much less the much higher standards of the Kingdom of God.

Regarding the Mosaic Law, there was none righteous ... no not one. Without Christ in you (the new nature), there is zero possibility of you walking according to the instruction of the Sermon On The Mount. Christ made the new birth possible through extreme agony for the express purpose of empowering you with His own nature in order to set you free from sin so you could walk in the fullness of the instructions given in the Sermon On The Mount.

As you read the Sermon On The Mount, you must constantly remember ... I am a child of God. I have the nature of Christ. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I am not trying to become this. I already am this. This is the power of the gospel. I am a new creature, recreated in the image of Christ. I am not who I

used to be. I am a child of God, empowered by God to walk like this. As He is, so am I, in this world.

The Sermon On The Mount is where you learn to rely upon the Mechanism Of Righteousness, Christ in you, the new nature in order to walk godly in this fallen world. This is a completely different walk than living by human willpower. This is supernatural righteousness, the gift of God by grace alone. It is activated by faith. You must first believe it in order to walk in it. You will come to rely upon the new nature more than your own mind or your own willpower. It is walking with a renewed mind. A renewed mind is one that constantly yields to the promptings of the new nature and the leadership that comes by the Holy Spirit.

The Sermon On The Mount is Christ speaking forth His nature from within you. This is His constant message because this is "Christ in you." He has made you a new creature. This is who you are. "As He is, so am I, in this world."

Matthew 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

- 1. Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;**
2. The only way to make sense of the sermon on the mount is with the understanding that you have just arrived on planet earth as ambassadors for the kingdom of heaven. You are being given instructions by Jesus as children of light before you are sent into the darkness of the world. You are on temporary assignment. It is as if you are in the military to accomplish the mission of manifesting the kingdom of God on earth. You are not of the world and you cannot think like the world. Your assignment is from the Lord Jesus Christ and you are to remain laser focused on the mission he gives you. You are like the "special forces" who do not go forth to gain personal wealth or to achieve "happiness." You go forth to accomplish your assignment in the kingdom of God. When God's kingdom prevails, you are happy and blessed ... no matter if you are penniless, exhausted, covered with mud, and nursing wounds inflicted by the enemy. You are blessed because the kingdom of God is being manifested through your obedience.

Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. Happiness for the world is wealth, fame, and pleasure. The apostle John warned us to love not the world.

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

2. We are to be poor in spirit the same way a soldier in the army is poor in spirit. A good soldier has surrendered his will to his commanding officer. He is not trying to be the one in charge. A good soldier receives his orders to "charge the hill," salutes smartly and "charges the hill." In combat, the soldier owns nothing. Even his food, clothes, and weapons are supplied by the army, not himself.

2Co 6:10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

On the battlefield he owns nothing, yet ... backing him up are all the resources of the military to help him accomplish his assignment. Ground troops can call in an air strike if needed. Jesus said he could ask his Father for legions of angels and they would be sent if He asked.

Mat 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Jesus did not ask the Father for angels because self-preservation was not the goal. The cross was the goal for Him. The mission came first, even before the preservation of His own life. Jesus is teaching in the sermon on the mount that as children of light, we are blessed if we maintain the mindset that we are soldiers in the kingdom of God, receiving and acting on our orders from the Lord. All the resources of heaven are at our disposal. Ours is the kingdom of heaven as long as we remember who we are, where we are from, and why we are here. Resist pride at all costs. Remember ... without Him ... we can do nothing.