

Message From The Mount

Lesson 4

The Righteousness Of Heaven's Kingdom (5:17 – 7:12)

Introduction

Having described the character of kingdom citizens as well as their work in a world so different from them (5:3-16), Jesus begins the biggest section of His sermon. He discusses the *kind* of righteousness that must exist in His kingdom. In very practical terms, Christ emphasizes what is "true" righteousness...not the shallow, self-absorbed traditions seen in the scribes & Pharisees as well as in today's man-made religion.

Jesus was not simply a "teacher of morals." His concern was to reveal God and His redemptive will to lost men & women. Over & over, Jesus made His appeal to the human heart. If the heart is right, true and godly actions (*a deep reverence for God and love for all men*) will follow (Mk. 7:14-23).

In Relation To The Law & Prophets (5:17-20)

- 1) What does Jesus say He ***will not*** do to establish His kingdom? (v. 17a) What do you think made it necessary for Jesus to make this statement? (cp. Mk. 2:16-17; Lk. 5:17-26)

- 2) By the time Jesus preached this sermon, what had already happened? (Lk. 6:1-11; Mk. 3:1-6; Jn. 5:2-18) Therefore, how might most people think Jesus was going to establish His kingdom?

- 3) What does Jesus He ***will*** do to establish His kingdom? (v. 17b) How does He emphasize the importance of the Mosaic Law? (vv. 18-19)

- 4) How would you describe Jesus' attitude toward the O.T.? (Isa. 40:7-8; 55:8-11)

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- 5) Using the passages below, comment on how Jesus “fulfilled” the Law.
Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 10:1-4 _____
Lk. 24:13-27 _____
- 6) Be able to harmonize Jesus’ statement in vv. 17-18 with Rom. 8:1-4 and Heb. 7:18.
- 7) If He wasn’t going to abolish the Law and “start over,” what is Jesus decriing or opposing? (v. 19a; cp. Mt. 15:1-14; Rom. 10:1-4)
- 8) What must take place for anyone to be able to enter into Christ’s kingdom? (v. 20)

As Compared To Traditional Religious Teaching (5:21-48)

- 9) These are *not* “contrasts” between the Law [*You have heard it said...*] and the gospel of Christ [*...but I say to you...*]. What then is contrasted? (cp. v. 20) In these 6 contrasts, what is Jesus trying to emphasize and expose? [*Note: remember the nature of His “opponents.”* (cp. Mt. 23:16-24)]
- 10) Comment on how Jesus “exposes” the legalistic thinking of the Jews re: the word of God.
Contrast #1 - Murder (vv. 21-26)

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Contrast #2 - Adultery (vv. 27-30)

Contrast #3 - Divorce (vv. 31-32)

Contrast #4 - Vows (vv. 33-37)

Contrast #5 - Personal Vengeance (vv. 38-42)

Contrast #6 - Love (vv. 43-48)

As Compared To Empty Self-Righteousness (6:1-18)

- 11) Compare v. 1 back to 5:20. Do you notice any similar thoughts? What is the main concern expressed in these verses? (v. 1b; cp. v. 2b, 5b, 16b; Mt. 23:1-12)

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- 12) Dividing these verses into 3 “topics,” comment on how Jesus exposes shallow self-righteousness and encourages true kingdom righteousness.

Topic #1 - Charity (vv. 2-4)

Topic #2 - Prayer (vv. 5-15)

Topic #3 - Fasting (vv. 16-18)

In Relation To The Father's Expectation For His Children (6:19-34)

- 13) Where are kingdom citizens encouraged to invest themselves and why? (vv. 19-20) What does Jesus admit about earthly riches? (v. 19; cp. 1 Tim. 6:17) What does Jesus admit about heavenly riches? (v. 20; cp. Mt. 16:26; 2 Tim. 1:12b)
- 14) What is the real issue? (v. 21) What is the connection between v. 21 and vv. 22-23? Define “good” [NKJV], “clear” [NASV], or “single” [KJV] in v. 22? (cp. 5:8; Jas. 1:5-8)
- 15) The problem is not having things or appreciating them. What is the problem? (1 Tim. 6:9-10; Lk. 16:13-14) What is the danger if we love material things too much? (v. 24; cp. Col. 3:5)

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- 16) In vv. 25-34, what major idea does Jesus emphasize? (v. 30b) How does He illustrate that God's children should not waste their time "anxiously worrying" about material things? (vv. 26-30)
- 17) What truth should give kingdom citizens a "reality check?" (v. 25b; cp. Lk. 12:15) How did Moses give a similar exhortation? (Deut. 8:2-3)
- 18) What is the sad truth about "aliens" (*those not yet in the kingdom*)? (v. 32) How might 6:33 serve as a thematic verse, not only to this section but to the entire sermon?
- 19) Why do you think Jesus concludes with the admonition in v. 34? (cp. Jas. 4:13-15)

As Compared To Hypocrisy (7:1-5)

- 20) How is v. 1 often misunderstood and misused? (cp. 7:15-16) What kind of judgment is Jesus discussing? What is the Divine warning re: rendering "judgments?" (v. 2)
- 21) What obviously should be done *before* trying to help someone else? (vv. 3-5; cp. Gal. 6:2)

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In Relation To Sharing The Kingdom With Others...Seeking It For Ourselves (7:6-12)

- 22) What “words of wisdom” does Jesus give re: attempts to bring others into this kingdom? (v. 6)
What is the attitude of some re: a lack of appreciation for Divine truth as well as a lack of desire to develop true kingdom righteousness? (cp. 2 Pet. 2:22)
- 23) In seeking the kingdom for ourselves, what actions does Jesus encourage? (v. 7) What
“reassurance” does He give as incentive? (vv. 8-11)
- 24) Is there a caveat re: this “asking?” (cp. Jas. 1:5-8; 1 Jn. 5:14-15) This is not *“Aladdin’s Lamp”* or
a blank check. How might 2 Cor. 12:7-10 provide further instruction?
- 25) To conclude this section of His sermon, what “rule” does Jesus give for kingdom citizens? (v. 12)
As God has treated us (vv. 8-11), how are we to treat others? How is this rule “...the Law and the
Prophets?” (cp. Lev. 19:18; Rom. 13:9-10)