

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Promises of God - -***

**Isaiah 64:4** Since ancient times no one has heard or perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who intervenes for those who wait for him. *NET Bible*

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**Matthew 5:1-48 - - The first part of our Savior's Sermon on the Mount**

**Three points regarding the Sermon on the Mount (in review) - -**

1. The Sermon on the Mount is the King's inaugural address establishing the principles of His Messianic kingdom.
2. The sermon was designed for the disciples' education and training prior to being sent out to preach the kingdom message.

***Disciples being sent out - -***

**Matthew 10:1-8** Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. <sup>2</sup> Now the **names** of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him. <sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "**Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> "And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand [on the brink of being instituted].'**" <sup>8</sup> "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

3. The sermon rejects the Pharisees' religious righteousness and corrects their interpretation of the Mosaic Law.
  - ✓ In **Matthew 5:21-47**, the Lord is teaching the kingdom standards of righteousness regarding six subjects.
  - ✓ What He does with this sermon is raise the standard of righteousness from that of the Law and what the self-righteous Pharisees taught.

The Lord assures the disciples that He did not come to dismantle the Law (**vv. 17-20**).

**vs. 17** "**Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**

**"Abolish"** – καταλύω – KATALUO – "To destroy or dismantle"

The Lord is about to add to or increase the righteous standards of the Law for the kingdom subject in this sermon.

**vs. 19** "**Whoever then annuls [λύω – LUO – "to loose, untie, or do away with"] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

- The Lord is not annulling what the Law taught.

- He's not *untying* or *abrogating* the requirements of the Law.
- He's **clarifying and increasing** the standards with this Sermon.

**vs. 20** "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

*At the very least, the Sermon on the Mount should convict all of us that we are sinners and unrighteous as we stand before a perfect and eternal God.*

The Lord communicates this [**vs. 20**] because the Pharisees had a doctrine on each of the six subjects and as long as an individual applied that doctrine, he was considered righteous *in their eyes* and would enter Messiah's kingdom.

**POD - The only justification that counts in life is to be found righteous in God's eyes.**

*The only opinion about you that counts is God's opinion.*

**POD - The only way to enter the kingdom of heaven is for one's righteousness to surpass that of the religious crowd (scribes & Pharisees).**

- To have your righteousness surpass that of the religious crowd means that you are going to have to be as righteous as God.
- God's righteous standard surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees.
- The Lord is communicating how righteous one has to be to enter the kingdom.

**Note the six righteous standards [*kingdom standards*] - -**

These things communicate not only the **type of righteousness** required to enter the kingdom of heaven but the righteousness that will be practiced by the subjects of the kingdom - -

**1<sup>st</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Murder (vv. 21-26)**

**vs. 21** - "You have heard that the ancients were told [*"Mosaic Law"* - Exodus 20:13], 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

⇒ What did the Pharisees teach?

⇒ What did our Savior do?

**vs. 22** - "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; . . . [*if you are angry you would be found guilty before God's heavenly court*] shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Adultery (vv. 27-30)**

**vs. 27** - "You have heard that it was said [*"Mosaic Law"* - Exodus 20:14], 'You shall not commit adultery';

⇒ What did the Pharisees teach?

**vs. 27** - but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

⇒ What did our Savior do?

**3<sup>rd</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Divorce (vv. 31-32)**

**vs. 31** - "It was said [*"Mosaic Law"* - Deuteronomy 24:1, 3], 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce';

⇒ **What did the Pharisees teach?**

⇒ **What did our Savior do?**

**vs. 32 - but I say to you** that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity [sexual unfaithfulness], makes her commit adultery [**Why? Because in God's eyes the 1<sup>st</sup> marriage is still valid**]; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Vows (vv. 33-37)**

**vs. 33** - “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told [*“Mosaic Law”* - **Leviticus 19:12**], ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’

⇒ **What did the Pharisees teach?**

⇒ **What did our Savior do?**

**vs. 34** - “But I say to you, make no oath at all. . . .

As a kingdom subject, no one should doubt the veracity of your word.

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*