

Sermon on the Mount | *Outline*

PRELIMINARY

The Time of Peril: God's Broken Heart

<1050 B.C. ***1 Sam. 8:6*** - *But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. 8 "According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day-with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods-so they are doing to you also.*

1050 B.C. The United Kingdom

931 B.C. The Divided kingdom

721 B.C. First dispersion of Northern Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians. Complete destruction of Israel.

586 B.C. Second dispersion of Southern Kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians. Return to the promise land occurred in three phases: 1) Zerubbabel to rebuild temple, 2) Ezra to rebuild spiritual condition, & 3) Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Not everyone returned (Acts 2:5-11).

Between the Testaments: The Period of Silence

331 B.C. Alexander the Great gained dominion to become world power and spread Greek culture and language known as Hellenism which encroached on Jewish religion

- Egypt >> Assyria [(1115-1000)-609 B.C.] >> Babylon (609-540 B.C.) >> Medes & Persians (Persian period: 539-332 B.C.) >> Greece (331-167 B.C.) >> Roman (63 B.C. – 636 A.D.)

167 B.C. The Maccabean Period (Century of Independence) revolved around revolts started by Matthias (a Jewish priest) and completed by continuing family members; no government

- Antiochus IV Epiphanes tried to force Hellenism on Jews and desecrated the temple by offering a pig and later by creating altars for Zeus in the temple. The Maccabean period centered around this and in 165 B.C. rededicated the temple.
- Judas Macabee rededicated temple to the Lord and there were eight days of festivities and one cruse of olive oil burned (requirement for rededication according to Talmud) miraculously for eight days. Also known as Hanukkah (aka: Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights) (John 10:22).

63 B.C. General Pompey of Rome had to settle dispute over who was high priest and he resolved dispute by making Palestine part of Roman Emperor.

- Made Antipater (an Edomite) ruler of Judea and was succeeded by his son Herod the Great (37-4 B.C.)
- Greek language remained in Palestine but Latin was the romance language of Rome.

Results of a Divided Nation: Emergence of Reformed Jews Based on Sect

Pharisees Believed that it was their responsibility to apply the Law of God to the new circumstances of Hellenism. They accepted both Law and traditions. They held high physical standards based on external behaviors, which they believed to be worship to God. They also refused to make contact with sinners.

Sadducees Only accepted the Torah but none of the later writings of the prophets, historical, nor poetical. They held some political power and possibly had more power than Pharisees. However, they were obliterated after 70 A.D. as their focus of power, the temple, was destroyed.

Zealots Known for their strong opposition to the Roman occupation. This party was more political in nature.

Herodians They supported the Herodian dynasty and joined the Pharisees' opposition of Jesus (Matt. 22:16).

Scribes Known as "Teachers of the Law". Their main duty was to copy and record information regarding the Law. They became influential and began to take leading roles in government. They built a hedge around the Law to protect everyone from breaking the Law.

Chief Priests These are not found in Old Law. It may be that they were past or present high priests or that they were of the lineage of high priests.

Rabbis Means "master" or "lord" and was used as a term of respect. Jesus discouraged the desire to be called this to His disciples (Matt. 23:6-8). The Rabbis were so influential that they had a series of teachings (Mishnah) and commentary based on those teachings (Gemara) [Mishnah + Gemara = Talmud] written around 200 AD.

Sanhedrin Consisted of elders, chief priests, and teachers of the Law. They governed Palestine as it was a self-governing area.

The Silence Ends: God Proclaims His Message

- Matt. 3:1-3** John the Baptist: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” – John prepares the way
- Matt. 4:1-11** Jesus demonstrates spiritual integrity (compare I Jn. 2:15-17):
Lust of the flesh – Turning stones to bread (v. 3,4)
Lust of the eyes – The showing of all the physical kingdoms (v. 8-10)
Pride of life – Setting Him on high pinnacle to throw Himself down (v. 5-7)
- Matt. 4:17** Jesus preaches the gospel: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matt. 4:17)

MAIN TEXT – SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Spiritual Characteristics of the Kingdom Citizen

- Matt. 7:24-27** The foundation of a disciple
Man’s standard *vs.* God’s standard
- Matt. 5:1-12** The beatitudes – Characteristics and blessings of the kingdom citizen
- Matt. 5:13-16** The effect of the kingdom citizen – Influencing others and glorifying God (Our main purpose on earth)
Principle – True repentance for true righteousness: Perfecting our spiritual bodies

Striving for True Righteousness

- Matt. 5:17-20** Jesus describes His own purpose on earth
He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets
He did not come to replace the teaching of the Old Law
Principle – True righteousness is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets

Understanding the Heart of the Matter – Making Application

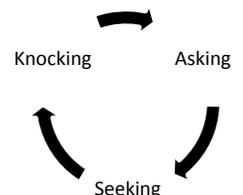
- “You have heard...” *vs.* “But I say to you...”
Man’s standard vs. God’s standard
- Matt. 5:21-26** Anger is murder
- Matt. 5:27-30** Checking out the “scenery” is adultery
- Matt. 5:31,32** Marriage was not created to be destroyed
- Matt. 5:33-37** Keeping your oaths to the Lord as a Christian
- Matt. 5:38-42** Doing good in response to persecution
- Matt. 5:43-48** Reacting to hatred with love
Principle – Going beyond man’s standards to obtain true righteousness; exceeding the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees

Focusing our Hearts on God – Developing an Undivided Heart

- Matt. 6:1-18** Seeking the approval of God, not the approval man
Aside: Learning to express our hearts to God through prayer – synchronizing our hearts with God’s heart
- Matt. 6:19-24** Three truths exhorting us to have an undivided heart
We must make a choice in our lives:
1) Between two treasures: Treasure on earth or in heaven
2) Between two bodily conditions: Light or darkness
3) Between two masters: Mammon or God
- Matt. 6:25-34** Seeking the will of God, not the things of this world
Trust in God to provide physical necessities so we can focus on the spiritual necessities
- Matt. 7:1-6** Seeking the will of God, not attempting to be God
Righteous judgment *vs.* condemning judgment – seeking to give loving assistance

Continual Perseverance

- Matt. 7:7-11** Continual asking, seeking, and knocking: Trusting in God’s promises
Drawing closer to God - closing the gap between God and ourselves
- Matt. 7:12** “Selfless love for others which rests on God’s love for us” (Paul Earnhart)



Conclusion – Navigating the Narrow Path with our Hearts

- Matt. 7:13-23** Choosing the way of the Lord and rejecting the way of the world
Following the narrow path to the end
The importance of righteous judgment as a preventative means from being misled
- Matt. 7:24-27** Deeply rooted with the rock or superficially rooted in the sand?

THE PLAN FOR CONDITIONING OUR HEARTS FOR STRONGER SPIRITUAL BODIES

Matt. 5:2-16: The kingdom citizen and the joy it brings (*Visual of the Goal*)



Matt. 5:17-20: The perfect example of the Kingdom Citizen (*Credentials of the Teacher*)



Matt. 5:21-48: Application of the command: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matt. 22:39) (*The Program*)



Matt. 6-7:6: Application of the command: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*” (Matt. 22:37) (*More of the Program*)



Matt. 7:7-12: Continually persevering for a stronger heart (*Disciplining our Hearts to Never Quit*)



Matt. 7:13-23: Navigating the “difficult way” – The lurking dangers of the narrow path (*Never Giving in to Other Quitters*)



Matt. 7:24-27: The wisdom of those who follow Jesus’ teachings (*The Motivational Speech Based on Promised Results*)



Summation: **Jer. 9:23,24**