

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew."
- * Matthew was a Jewish man writing about the Jewish Messiah to a Jewish audience.
- * Prior to Family Camp, we considered His Linage, His Birth, His Forerunner, His Inaugural Preparation and His Message. The message of John and Jesus were one and the same: "Repent (*metanoia* - *change the way you think*) for the kingdom of the Heavens has drawn near!"
- * As a result of that message, Jesus then began to call upon men to follow Him with the promise that He would make them into fishers of men.
- * Last week, David began looking at this portion of Matthew's account that is commonly referred to as the sermon on the Mount. This section of teaching reveals the Standards of the Messianic Kingdom. As we will see today, Jesus (the Messiah) speaks with the authority of a king - The King! Jesus began this teaching by revealing that the Standards of the Kingdom were contrary to the standards of this world. What the world calls weak and cursed - Jesus referred to as blessed. As Paul stated to the Philippians, we need to take on the mind of Christ. To the believers at Rome he stated that in order to offer our bodies as living sacrifices we need to not be conformed to the world but rather be transformed in the renewing of our minds ... changing the way we think!
- * When this transformation begins to take place, we will be the salt of the earth; we will be as lights that cannot be hid.
- * Today, we see Jesus throw down the gauntlet to His Jewish listeners by revealing to them that the Standard of the Kingdom is not only different, but Higher!

INSTRUCTION

I. A DIFFERENT STANDARD (Matthew 5:1-16)

II. A HIGHER STANDARD (Matthew 5:17-48)

A. The Ultimate Standard

1. ISSUED

- a. The Imp_____ of the Law & Prophets (v. 17-19)
- b. The Imp_____ of Man's Righteousness (v. 20)

2. ILLUSTRATED (v. 21-47) ... As the King, Jesus speaks authoritatively!

	<u>YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID</u>	<u>ISAY UNTO YOU</u>
v. 21-26	You Shalt Not Murder	Anger without cause and calling names is murder
v. 27-30	You Shalt Not Commit Adultery	Looking on a woman to lust IS adultery
v. 31-32	You Can Divorce for any reason	Only Immorality - otherwise you are committing adultery
v. 33-37	You Shall Swear Oaths by LORD	No Oaths ... Be a man of your word!
v. 38-42	Eye for Eye / Tooth for Tooth	Do not resist - Turn the cheek; give your cloak
v. 43-47	Love your neighbor & Hate your enemy	Love your enemy; bless those who curse

B. The Ultimate Standard

1. TAKEN AS A C_____

- a. Technically
- b. Theologically (cf. Romans 3:10,23)

2. TAKEN AS A S_____

- a. Technically
 - i) εσθθθ V-FDI-2P of εἰμί ... not an imperative or future indicative of teleo: be perfect
 - * It is used 10x
 - Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:13; Luke 21:17 you shall be hated for My name's sake
 - Luke 6:35 you shall be a son of the Most High
 - John 8:36 Therefore if the son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!
 - Acts 1:8 ... you shall be my witnesses
 - 2 Cor 6:18 ... I will be a Father to you and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty

- ii) εἰμί ... IS used as a commandment IN the imperative! (23x; 6x in Matthew)
 - * Matthew 2:13; 5:25; 5:37; 18:18; 20:26-27
 - * Mark - 1; Luke -2; Acts - 5; 1 Cor -1; 2 Cor - 1; Gal - 2; 1 Tim - 2; James - 2; 1 Pet -1

b. Theologically

- * It is a declaration that when you follow the King ... you SHALL be made perfect!!!!
- * This looks at the whole process of sanctification ... Positional - Progressive - Perfection
- * This is a work entirely of God ... yet, we are commanded to participate!
- * cf. Matthew 19:21, 25-26

i) POSITIONAL PERFECTION (Justification; cf. 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:21-26; 5:18-21)

ii) ETERNAL PERFECTION (Glorification; cf. Romans 28-30; Colossians 1:28)

ii) PROGRESSIVE PERFECTION (Sanctification):

- * Philippians 3:12-15
- * Philippians 1:6
- * John 17:23
- * Hebrews 7:18-19, 28; 10:1, 12-14

III. A DEFINITIVE STANDARD (Matthew 6:1-34)

IV. A PRACTICAL STANDARD (Matthew 7:1-29)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS?
- * DO YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE DOING ALRIGHT AND CAN STAND BEFORE GOD ON YOUR OWN MERITS? ... OR, DO YOU COMPREHEND THAT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS LIKE A FILTHY RAG?
- * WHOSE THINKING IS MORE SYMBOLIC OF YOUR THINKING - THAT OF THE PHARISEES, OR THAT OF CHRIST?
- * HAVE YOU ACCEPTED THE SACRIFICE WHICH CHRIST MADE TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS?
- * IF SO, YOU MAY STAND FIRM IN HIS TEACHING OF YOUR PERFECTION!
- * BUT, AN INDICATOR OF THE GENUINENESS OF YOUR FAITH WILL BE THE DESIRE TO PURSUE PERFECTION - TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST - IN YOUR LIFE.
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Considering each of the illustrations that Christ gave. Do we tend to act like the Pharisees assessing our own righteousness based upon our own standards?
- * Read Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 1:18-2:11. How would these passages apply to Jesus' application of the standard of righteousness?
- * How does, and/or how should, the concept of our perfection play out in the world?

