

‘The Most Needed and Most Counter-Cultural Message Ever Given’ Matt. 5:1,2

Series title: What does it mean to live a good life?

Introduction:

In the sermon on the mount, we have the greatest, most revolutionary message ever given! It teaches values that are completely at odds with the way our world acts. If followed, it would completely shatter the political correctness or wokeness of our day. It encourages us not to live by lies. It shatters the status quo and, in the process, gives people fresh, new hope.

I. Their world had gotten off-track, and so has ours.

A. They were politically off-track. The people thought the _____ would be a political and military leader. Yet as Jesus answered Pilate: ‘*My kingdom is not of this world.*’ Jn. 18:36

The main thrust of this sermon was that His main work would be on the internal, not the external, on the spiritual, not the political. His concern is for what people are on the inside, because that will determine what they do on the outside.

B. They were religiously off-track. Jesus lived in a very complex religious society, much like today. The Pharisees were traditionalists who said: ‘go back’, back to the past. The Sadducees were progressives, saying ‘go ahead.’ The Essenes were separatists who said ‘get away.’ The Zealots were activists who said ‘go against.’

But Jesus’ way was not any of those. To all He said that the Kingdom of God is not about keeping traditions or rituals or holding to man’s ideas instead of God’s, or a better location or military power; it’s a matter of the heart, who you are on the inside.

II. Why is this message so important for us today?

A. It shows the absolute necessity of the new birth, of being born again, as Jesus puts it. Why? Because the standards and values of this message are so high that no human can meet them on their own.

B. Corresponding to this, this sermon intends to drive the listener to _____ as our only hope of meeting God’s standards. If we can’t do this on our own, we need divine help.

C. It gives God’s pattern for happiness and success. What is a good life? What is good, what is bad? How do we know? Who gets to decide? What do I teach my kids?

D. This message is one of the great resources for sharing the gospel with others. Any Christian who personifies these principles will be like a spiritual magnet, attracting others to Christ.

E. Also, just to be clear, a life lived in conformity with the teachings of the sermon on the mount will be a life that is pleasing to God.

III. It is our owner’s manual for life.

A. The teachings of the sermon on the mount are for believers today, showing the distinctive lifestyle that should mark every _____ of every age. The Bible is God’s owner’s manual for life. It shows us what is the wisest way to live, how to take care of ourselves, how to function happily.

B. This sermon shows us that a true external life can only be produced by a true interior life. Don’t let your life just be a show, a performance, an act. People can sense the difference. Man looks on the outside, but God looks at the heart. Live from the heart, with sincerity, simplicity.