

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT ... PART 4

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The Sermon on The Mount is Jesus' teaching on practical living for His disciples — for all time.

Some people say Jesus' sermon is not for us today — it was for the "Dispensation of Law" ... whereas we're allegedly living in the "Dispensation of Grace" (since Jesus resurrection and New Covenant).

NO! Jesus teaching is for us today!

#### Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "teaching them (the whole world) to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Amen

Jesus told His disciples to teach ... **"to observe all things I have commanded you"**.

It is definitely for us!

In much of Matthew Chapters 5 & 6 ... we saw how Jesus upheld and taught the Old Testament ways — truth that the Scribes and Pharisees had twisted or corrupted with their religious — but man-made ideas.

So ... the Old Testament still contains much good teaching — for example: speak truthfully ... don't lust ... love your neighbour ... don't harbour hate ... don't seek vengeance or retaliation. And ... Jesus re-inforced that.

In Chapter 6 we saw the need to do good deeds: pray ... fast ... trust in God and not money. The Pharisees did most of these things ... but ... to be seen by men. Their motives were entirely wrong. Our motives should be from a pure heart!

### **Matthew 7:1-6**

1 "**Judge not, that you be not judged.**

2 "**For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.**

3 "**And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?**

4 "**Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?**

5 "**Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**

6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Judge not! To some people ... that's the entirety of the Bible!

The world's best-known scripture? "No matter what I'm doing — same sex marriage ... divorce ... LGBTQ ... over-eating ... drunk ... a work-shy person ... whatever — Jesus said you're not to judge"!

Is this really a "get-out-of-jail" free card?

People like to take verse 1 out of context. The whole New Testament doesn't consist of just two words — "Judge not"!!

The problems were hypocrisy and being judgmental. Being harsh on others — whilst being very lenient on yourself (like the Pharisees — see others' problems and condemn them ... but guilty themselves. Hypocrisy). Going "mote hunting"?

It's okay to judge. But ... appropriately.

### **1 Corinthians 5:1-5**

1 **It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife!**

2 **And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.**

3 **For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.**

*(Paul had made a strong judgment)*

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus**

They should have judged the immoral person. Paul had to judge for the safety of the Church. To save the others from being contaminated.

### **1 Corinthians 5:9-6:3**

9 I wrote to you in my epistle **not to keep company with sexually immoral people.**

10 Yet **I certainly did not mean** with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now **I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.**

12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? *(that doesn't mean going hunting for "motes)*

13 But those who are outside God judges. **Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."**

### **Chapter 6**

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

2 **Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?**

3 **Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?**

We NEED TO JUDGE situations ... people. Avoid "public" sin.

### **John 7:14, 24**

14 Now about the middle of the feast **Jesus went up into the temple and taught. (What did He teach?)**

24 **"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."**

Judge righteously! (Don't jump to conclusions ... get the facts). Don't be a hypocrite!

### **Romans 2:1-5**

1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, **whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.**

2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

3 And **do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?** (*You hypocrite! You pretender!*)

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

5 But **in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.**

Do you do what you condemn in others?

We all have occasions when we must judge —but don't be hypocritical. Remember to be merciful — we need it!

Also ... judging can be made in private (e.g. we avoid some types of company). We don't necessarily need to go up to someone and announce our judgment of them.

(And we can find similar instructions in Leviticus 19:15).

### **Matthew 7:7-11**

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

Further teaching on prayer. Positive ... encouraging.

God is a Father — a “Much More” Father.

Ask ... seek ... knock. Imperatives — commands. As a lifestyle (not mindless repeats). Not to “move God” ... but to help us stay connected.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ASK.

### **James 4:1-3**

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

2 **You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.**

3 **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

Ask!

### **Matthew 6:30**

30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

God is a “Much More” Father.

### **Matthew 7:12**

12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The Law and the Prophets teach good ways — do unto others is how Jesus summarises!

### **Matthew 7:13-14**

13 "**Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.**

14 "Because **narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

If we choose to live the right way that Jesus has explained — don't expect too much company!

There is only one door ... and one gate which is narrow — Jesus is The Way — the only way.

A 2018 USA survey of "evangelicals" showed that 51% agreed with the statement that "God accepts the worship of all religions including Christianity, Judaism and Islam".

How about the next statement: "Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God". 78% agree!!! Ignorance gone to seed! These people have no idea.

We need to ensure we use the Bible as our yardstick. Obtain our key values and standards from God's Word ... and then endeavour to live thereby.

#### **Matthew 7:15-20**

15 "**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.**

16 "**You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

17 "Even so, **every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.**

18 "**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.**

19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 "**Therefore by their fruits you will know them.** *(and that requires us to judge)*

We need to be careful about teachers and preachers (which in their day was Scribes and Pharisees).

And ... that requires us to judge!

Just because someone looks cute and friendly like a sheep ... ?

There will be false teachers in among the brethren. We need to stick to the teachings of Jesus and God's Word.

## **2 Peter 2:1-3**

1 But **there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.**

2 And **many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

3 **By covetousness (money or power or both) they will exploit you with deceptive words;** for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

So. WATCH OUT!

## **Matthew 7:21-23**

21 "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

22 "**Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'**

23 "**And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**

This applies to both false teachers and those who heed them.

The one who DOES THE WILL OF THE FATHER is the one who will enter the kingdom.

Many churches hate the law (Legalism!! Especially The Sabbath). But there is no scripture anywhere that says "depart from me you who practice God's Law!!"

## **Matthew 7:24-27**

24 "Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:**

25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and **it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.**

26 "But **everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:**

27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And **great was its fall.**"

HEAR AND DO = GOOD!

HEAR AND DO NOT DO = TROUBLE!

Hearing God's Word (sermons?) ... and **not taking action ... is a dangerous business.**

"These sayings" would primarily be the Sermon on The Mount. So it is good for us to be familiar — and to do! Not just assume we are doing it!

#### **Matthew 7:28-29**

28 **And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,**

29 **for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

Jesus didn't teach like the Scribes and the Pharisees. And He certainly didn't teach the same doctrines! Jesus taught that the Old Testament was good and useful!

#### **Matthew 22:34-40**

34 **But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.**

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

36 **"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"**

37 **Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."**

38 **"This is the first and great commandment.**

39 **"And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

40 **"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."**

**Love God and your neighbour = the summary of the Old Testament! It is still applicable today!**

These are the Words of Life.