

The Sermon on the Mount

Part II: Mt. 6:9-7:29

Introduction

This portion of the Sermon on the Mount contains foundational truths that apply to every aspect of our lives. The tragedy of hyper-dispensationalism is that it teaches that the Sermon on the Mount was only for the time in which Jesus was walking on this earth in human form. Thus, according to the hyper-dispensationalists, it really doesn't have in practical application for us today. This perspective, therefore, is at best tragic, and at worst it is utterly imbecilic and the result of spiritual, mental, and intellectual blindness and gross ignorance that cloaks itself in a pseudo-theological mantle, but indeed is nothing more than utter theological and intellectual gibberish and tripe that is useful only for waste disposal. The truth, however, is that this section in particular, concerning prayer, forgiveness, judging, etc., are, as I stated above, foundational to every aspect of our lives EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!

I. How We Should Pray – 6:9-15

- A. The 'Lord's Prayer', as this has been called, was never intended to simply be a rote prayer, that by merely repeating the words alone, one is somehow brought into a meaningful relationship with God through prayer. On the other hand, without any question, for those who are either very young in the Lord, or for those who have been a Christian for some time, but have had no appreciable growth in the Lord, when they encounter very difficult situations in their lives, and they repeat this prayer from their heart, crying out to God for His help and guidance, He certainly hears their heart's cry, and according to His sovereign grace, mercy, and love, He will respond in the way He knows is best for them. But there will come a time in a person's life in which that type of prayer will no longer suffice

in their developing relationship with the Lord, and they will need to go beyond that beginning and infancy stage mode in their relationship with the Lord.

- B. This prayer, therefore, is the 'skeleton', if you will, of what our prayer life should be with the Lord. In other words, this is the 'framing' of our prayer life, in the same way when a home or building is built, the 'framing' is put up upon which and in which the walls, ceiling, windows, doors, flooring, wiring, plumbing, etc. will be built upon.

II. Genuine Spirituality: Doing What We Do As Unto The Lord, Versus As Unto Men – 6:16-18

- A. This is one of the most difficult aspects of our walk in Christ, but yet it is one of the most blessed when once we see and understand it, and we begin to walk in its freedom in our lives – the freedom from being controlled by our deep insecurity to be seen, noticed, and appreciated by men in our minds as being someone of importance and significance, whereby we draw our own narcissistic, self-deceived, and self-deified view of ourselves and our self-worth.
 1. This is indeed the natural way, but it NEVER LEADS TO THE TRUE IDENTITY OF OURSELVES, BUT RATHER TO AN ADDICTIVE AND ENSLAVING FALSE PURSUIT OF OUR IDENTITY!
 2. This is what drives people to an insatiable pursuit of self-glory before others, which in turn also drives them to intense, self-destructive behavior that enslaves, not frees them.
- B. The following passages address this very issue: Mt. 6:1-4; 23:1-13; Lk. 22:24-27; Phil. 2:1-8; Col. 3:23-24. These could all be expounded on in greater depth, but let it suffice at this point to note the emphasis here in these passages is all about the truth that our lives are not about us, but rather about Jesus!

III. Material Needs – 6:19-34

- A. This whole section is the key to financial success and prosperity in a believer's life – simple, but incredibly profound!
- B. The following, therefore, is the sub-division of this passage:
 - 1. “where your treasure (treasure chest or storehouse) is, there your heart (the center and source of the whole inner life) will be also” (6:21).
 - 2. “The eye is the lamp (the grid for our world view) of the body” (6:22).
 - 3. “No one can serve (to be owned by someone and be a slave of and subjected to that person's authority) two masters; . . . You cannot serve (same as above) God and wealth (i.e., the wholesale pursuit of wealth as the driving force of one's life).
 - 4. “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. *Each day has enough trouble of its own*” (6:33-34).

IV. Judging Others – 7:1-5

- A. Judging others is part and parcel of our human nature, but it is also a manifestation of the narcissistic blindness we have to our own sin and failure and the hurt we have caused others as we focus **ONLY** on the hurt done to us by others, versus the hurt we have caused others.
- B. Consequently, this passage, among other things, is dealing with seeing ourselves as a victim, and the consequences of that perspective, versus seeing ourselves as a perpetrator.

V. Wisdom in Sharing Spiritual Truths – 7:6

- A. Another very difficult area for us as believers is knowing when and when not to share deep, spiritual truths with others.
- B. The following Proverbs may help to share some light on this passage:

- 1. “Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is *counted* prudent” (Proverbs 17:28)
- 2. “Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly *deserves*, Lest he be wise in his own eyes” (Proverbs 26:4-5).

VI. Persistence in Prayer – 7:7-11

- A. This too is one of the most challenged areas in our lives as believers – persistence in prayer in the face of great disappointments, tragedies, personal failure, etc.
- B. The key component in these verses is the present tense in the three main verbs of “ask, . . . seek, . . . knock” – the emphasis being that **WE NEVER QUIT, EVEN IN THE FACE OF TREMENDOUS AND AT TIMES HORRENDOUS EVENTS THAT WOULD TEND TO DESTROY US SPIRITALLY, MENTALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY!**
- C. The unequivocal promise is that we will receive, find, and doors will be opened as we continue to pray because of who our heavenly Father is: “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him” (7:11).

VII. Treat Others as You Want to be Treated – 7:12

VIII. Perseverance in Our Christian Life – 7:13-14

- A. Probably one of the most undesirable words we want to hear as believers is the word, perseverance. And yet, it is a cornerstone in our walk and life in Christ, and it is a vital aspect if we are to grow in Christ and experience His victory over all aspects of sin in our lives.
- B. The following passages say it all with reference to the importance of spiritual, mental, emotional, intellectual, and physical perseverance in our Christian lives: Lk. 8:15; Rom.

5:3-5; 15:4-6; II Pet. 1:5-11; Gal. 2:20; II Cor. 12:1-10; Phil. 4:13; Lk. 9:23-24. Here too, all of these passages could be greatly expounded upon, but what is important also are the last four passages in particular that tell us from whence this perseverance comes from, as well as Rom. 15:4-6.

IX. False Teachings and Teachers – 7:15-23

- A. These verses are some of the most important in the Bible with regard to false teachings and teachers as they too are simple, but incredibly profound.
- B. In verse 23, the key phrase is, “I never knew you,” and in the Greek, the amplified translation would be, “Never at any point in time in history have I ever come into a personal relationship with you.”

X. The True Foundation of Our Lives – 7:24-27

- A. This too is one of the most basic, but yet profound truths of genuine victory in all areas of our lives – embracing and applying these truths of Jesus in our lives, versus simply hearing and disregarding them and following our own corrupt, flawed, and self-destructive reasoning.
- B. The key word in this passage is “acts,” and it means “to carry out, practice, and commit.” This, therefore, is also related to Lk. 9:23-24, Gal. 2:20, and Phil. 4:13 above, in that it is in the power of Christ’s strength in and through us, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, that we are enabled to “act” upon His Word, but for this ‘action’ to occur, there must be a ‘death to ourselves’.

XI. Genuine Authority, Versus Empty Platitudes – 7:28-29

- A. Genuine and true divine authority comes not with the exaltation of the human personality, but rather with a brokenness of our human pride, ego, self-deification, and narcissism whereby for

those who are believers in Christ, the Life of Christ is then manifested within us.

- B. Paul clearly enunciates this in the following passage: “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ ¶ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh” (II Cor. 4:7-11).