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Introduction

Matthew chapters 5-7, Commonly referred to as the Sermon on the Mount, is the 1st of 5 large blocks of the Lord Jesus' teaching.

- This block parallels with the 5th block of teaching, His last, also given on a mountain, the Olivet Discourse (chap. 23-25).

<p><u>Sermon on the Mount - 1st:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 blessings, openness to heart change • The disciples are the new city on a hill/presence of God • Wise and foolish builders, obedience to Christ's word 	<p><u>Olivet Discourse - 5th:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 woes for lack of heart change • Fall of Jerusalem, the old city on a hill/presence of God • Wise and foolish virgins, obedience to the disciple's message
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2

Timing of the Kingdom

The TIMING of the Kingdom:

- In the Sermon on the mount, the Lord lays out the criterion for entrance into the Kingdom, a tall order indeed.
 - August Van Ryn wrote... “Many talk about believing in the Sermon on the Mount ... little realizing that the carrying out of its provisions is impossible to the natural man. Only those who possess eternal life can live the eternal life suggested in these tremendous truths unfolded here. One must “be” before one can “do.” All the thoughts here advanced by our Lord are meant for believers in Him only.”
- But by the Lord’s last discourse it seems, from the Jewish perspective to have been delayed or postponed. Why?

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Timing of the Kingdom

Its because of the rejection of the King by the nation.

- Due to their unbelief the timing of the Kingdom was, from their point of view, changed.
- Of course, all of this was known to God.
- He knew what men would choose.
- He knows the beginning from the ending.
 - *“I am God, and there is none like Me declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose’”* Isa. 46:10

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Timing of the Kingdom

A similar occurrence took place in the Jewish experience regarding entrance into the Promised Land.

- Due to their unbelief the timing of entrance into the land was changed. Again, all of this was known to God. He knew what men would choose.
- But their unbelief would cost them much then, in the wilderness and again in the Lord's day.
- BUT, as certainly as the Israelites entered the Promised Land, so will the faithful Jew enter the Kingdom - **God is not done with Israel.**

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Timing of the Kingdom

It is vital to understand that **God's plans are not hastily changed by the fickle whims of man!**

- No! He knows what men will choose.
- Here we see the dove-tailing of Man's free will and God's Sovereignty.
- Man, freely chooses but God's plans are laid down before time ever began.
- Peter says, "...this Jesus, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death." Acts 2:23

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Structure

Each chapter of teaching is principally given with a certain group in mind:

- Chapter 5 - **Scribes**
- Chapter 6 - **Pharisees**
- Chapter 7 - **Sadducees**

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Structure

These 3 groups were quite disparate in their world views.

- **Scribes:**
 - These were expounders of the **law** going back to Ezra's day.
 - They were more concerned with the letter of the Law rather than its spirit. Simply put they were hair-splitters.
 - They knew where the Christ was to be born but stayed in Jerusalem.
- **Chapter 5:**
 - Here the Lord speaks of fulfilling the **law**, vs 17.
 - He also expounds on the bar God sets to fulfill the **law** "*You have heard that it was said.... But I say to you...*" Matt. 5:27-28

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Structure

- Pharisees:
 - The dominant party of the day - ruling the people.
 - A religio-political group who wanted to restore the kingdom of David.
 - Strict legalists, yet they were **hypocritical** in their lifestyle and made an outward show of their good works for personal gain.
- Chapter 6:
 - Do good works for God alone; He is the only arbiter of men's motives.
 - *“when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the **hypocrites** do” vs. 2*
 - *“And when you pray, you must not be like the **hypocrites**” v. 5*
 - *“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the **hypocrites**” vs. 16*

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Structure

- Sadducees:
 - Mainly wealthy, socially minded men who shunned tradition.
 - Liberal in their theology, they rejected much of the supernatural.
 - Similar in some ways to the Greek Epicureans - ‘Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die’. They did not believe in **resurrection**.
- Chapter 7:
 - Entrance requirements into the Kingdom of Heaven are expounded here.
 - *“For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to **life**” vs. 14*
 - *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the **kingdom of heaven**” vs 21*

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Summary

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain: and when He was seated, His disciples came unto Him, And He opened His mouth, and taught them...” Matt. 5:1-2

He taught them 7 Key Lessons:

- Matt. 5:1-12 Lessons concerning their Will - Beatitudes
- Matt. 5:13-16 Lessons concerning their Witness - Salt & Light
- Matt. 5:17-48 Lessons concerning His Word - “I say to you...”
- Matt. 6:1-18 Lessons concerning their Worship - Alms, Prayer & Fasting
- Matt. 6:19-34 Lessons concerning their Wealth - Treasure in heaven
- Matt. 7:1-14 Lessons concerning their Walk - Golden Rule
- Matt. 7:15-29 Lessons concerning their World - False prophets vs. Wise Men

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Chapter 5 - Beatitudes

Will

The first part of chapter 5 is commonly known as the **Beatitudes**.

- The Lord here is laying out the moral and spiritual constitution of His Kingdom.
- Strictly speaking, these are for His Millennial reign to come.
- However, the ‘High Truths’ spoken of were just as applicable then and just as applicable now as they will be in the future.
- As an example of this, there are 8/9 Beatitudes which nicely mirror the 8/9 components of the the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Interestingly, these 8/9 are the antithesis of the 8 woes of Matthew chapter 23.

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Chapter 5 - Beatitudes

Will

The Beatitudes:

- The 1st 4 are PERSONAL attributes of a subject of the Kingdom:
 1. Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 2. Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.
 3. Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth.
 4. Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.

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Chapter 5 - Beatitudes

Will

The Beatitudes:

- The 2nd 4 are PUBLIC attributes of a subject of the Kingdom:
 1. Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.
 2. Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.
 3. Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.
 4. Blessed are those who are **persecuted for righteousness' sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Christ exemplifies all Private and Public attributes.

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Chapter 5 - Beatitudes

Will

The Beatitudes:

- There is a particular blessing for the disciples of Christ:
“Blessed are YOU when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.” vs. 11
- No longer the 3rd person “they” & “those” but “YOU”.
- ‘When God puts His children in the furnace of adversity, His loving hand knows how long and how much. He keeps His eye on the thermostat, and His hand on the dial.’ Warren Wiersbe

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Chapter 5 - Salt & Light

Witness

The entrants into the Kingdom are likened to 2 common day things - Salt and light.

- It has been suggested by some that ‘Salt and Light’ was a metaphor that was frequently used in classical times by Jews to describe the Mosaic law.
 - The analogy indicating that these men should not merely be an old document, but a living oracle to others.
- An ancient Latin saying, ‘Sole et sale nihil utilius’.
- Translated: “Nothing is more useful than the sun and salt.”
 - Neither make a sound, but by example, they both speak volumes.

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Chapter 5 - Salt & Light

Witness

Though these analogies were made of the faithful in the Millennial Kingdom, these men became part of the Church.

- Thus, application can rightly be made to the Christian.
- Christ uses these 2 things to advocate the Savor and Shine of a Christian Witness.
- Salt deals with Decay.
- Light deals with Darkness.

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Chapter 5 - Salt & Light

Witness

Salt deals with Decay.

- 2 components come together to form the preservative properties of salt. So, it is in the Christian's life.
- Chlorine is a deadly poisonous gas.
 - Chlorine may be equated with FAITH, "*So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*" Jam. 2:17
- Pure Sodium is not found naturally on earth because it is so highly reactive; explosive when exposed to water.
 - Sodium may be equated with WORKS. True good works can't exist without faith. "*Without faith it is impossible to please God*" Heb. 11:6

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Chapter 5 - Salt & Light

Witness

Salt deals with Decay.

- But combine the 2...
- Chlorine + Sodium = **Salt**
Arrests Physical Decay
- Faith + Works = **Godly Witness**
Arrests Spiritual Decay

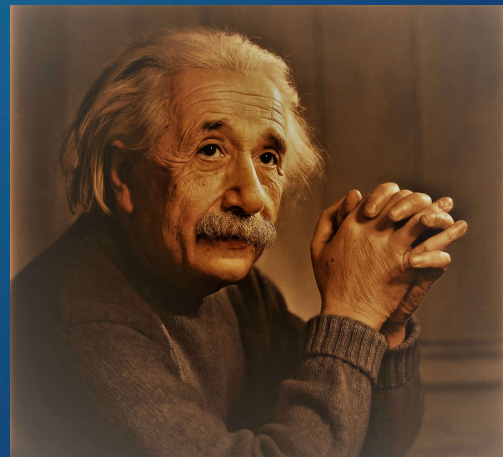
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Chapter 5 - Salt & Light

Witness

Light deals with Darkness.

- Does Darkness exist?
 - Darkness is merely the **absence of Light**.
- Does Cold exist?
 - Cold is merely the **absence of Heat**.
- Does Evil exist?
 - Evil is merely the **ABSENCE OF GOD**.



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Chapter 5 - "I say to you..."

Word

In the last portion of this chapter the Lord sets the standards for His Kingdom.

- The passage this phrase is used 5 times.
 1. Vs. 21 - Dealing with **Murder**
 2. Vs. 27 - Dealing with **Adultery**
 3. Vs. 33 - Dealing with **Bearing Witness**
 4. Vs. 38 - Dealing with **Vengeance**
 5. Vs. 43 - Dealing with one's **Neighbors & Enemies**
- In each case the Lord sets a much higher bar than the Law does, because the law is to be kept in our hearts, not our mouths.

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Chapter 5 - "I say to you..."

Word

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds." Heb. 10:16

- This is what the Lord was speaking about when He said, *"unless your righteousness **exceeds** the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven."* Matt. 5:20
- Its not just about **DOING** right (the Pharisees couldn't even get that right!)
- Its about **BEING** right.

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Chapter 6 - Alms, Prayer & Fasting

Worship

In the 1st part of chapter 6 the Lord teaches 3 things:

1. No ALMS before men
 2. No PRAYERS before men
 3. No FASTING before men
- Commendation from men in these matters ought not be sought rather from God. *“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Master.”* Matt. 25:21
 - Some things should only be for God.

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Chapter 6 - Alms, Prayer & Fasting

Worship

1. No ALMS before men:
 - Apparently, it was a common practice of the day to sound a trumpet so the poor may come for their collections and that all may see what was being done.
 - The Lord here admonishes to *“not let your left hand know what your right is doing”* vs.3.
 - An idiom denoting secrecy, which when done, will receive an open reward before God.
 - *“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* Acts 20:35

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Chapter 6 - Alms, Prayer & Fasting

Worship

2. No **PRAYERS** before men:
- The same places where alms should have been secret, are now used to show off, not wealth, but ostentatious pride.
 - “*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*”
1 Pet. 5:5
 - The Lord is not here discouraging earnest corporate prayer, rather the SHOW of prayer.

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Chapter 6 - Alms, Prayer & Fasting

Worship

3. No **FASTING** before men:
- In the OT there were times, instituted by the Lord, when the faithful should fast.
 - But upon return from Babylon several other ‘fast days’ were implemented by the leaders of the people.
 - By the Lord’s time, the Pharisees had taken it to an extreme (they fasted every Monday and Thursday - Lk. 18:12).
 - All this was done for self glory not for **God’s Glory**. This is what the Lord is teaching against.

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Chapter 6 - Treasure in Heaven

Wealth

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” vs. 19-21

- “Store up” - Strong's 2343: To amass a reserve.
- The concept here is 2-fold:
 1. Wealth is preparation for the future - but this world has no future! Everything here will be either lost or decay. Not in Christ's Kingdom!
 2. True disciples of Christ must have 'Singleness of Purpose' and not be encumbered (weighed down) by the things of this world.

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Chapter 7 - Golden Rule

Walk

“So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” vs. 12

- The first part of chapter 7 deals with the relationship of children of the King with other children.

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Chapter 7 - False prophets vs. Wise Men

World

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” vs. 15

- The final admonition of the discourse is that, among the children of the King are those who seek to destroy them.
- Just as there were those who followed the children of Israel out of Egypt, there are those who will “tag along” to the Kingdom, never knowing the King.
- *“On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” vs. 22-23*

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Chapter 7 to 8

“When Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as One who had authority, and not as their scribes..” Matt. 7:28-29

- The authority Christ displayed in **TEACHING** in the Sermon on the mount was codified in the 1st act He preformed upon coming down from the mountain.
- By the healed the leper, *“I will; be clean”* Matt. 8:3.
- Interestingly, the 1st act He preformed upon coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration was the healing of the boy with a Demon.

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Chapter 7 to 8

Christ's TEACHING and GLORIFICATION were codified by an act of healing.

- Each time it is said of Him that “*He came down from the mountain*” Matt. 8:1 & Matt. 17:9
- “*He taught them... so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this Man get this WISDOM and these MIGHTY WORKS?”*” Matt. 13:54