

CHRIST-LIKENESS - SPIRITUAL MATURITY  
(SERMON ON THE MOUNT MATTHEW 5 - 7)

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. People In Our Day Need A Working Philosophy Of Life; A Standard Of Right And Wrong; A Moral And Spiritual Code Of Ethics.
1. Our people are adrift with no anchor - Christ is the answer. (*Heb. 6:18-19*)
  2. The Sermon on the Mount is not idealistic nor an impractical nonworkable way of life. It is "The Way of Life."
  3. One has said, "We must now cease to embalm it. We must embody it - or abdicate... If this is unworkable, then there is not much left. We must turn our conduct over to other ways of living and stand beside dead altars, repeating dead creeds."
- B. The Sermon On The Mount Is Actually "THE MAN ON THE MOUNT."
1. The Sermon on the Mount as we normally call it, is actually a portrait, not a sermon - a portrait of Jesus, His Father and the person we ought to be.
  2. We see in Jesus a simplification of God. He came to show us the Father (*John 14:9*); to declare, Gk. Rt. word, ἐξηγεομαι, exegeomai, "to lead or bring out, hence to make known, declare, unfold." (*cf. John 1:18; Luke 24:35*) Christ therefore exegetes the Father.
    - a. Christ became flesh. (*John 1:1, 14*)
    - b. Christ demands His disciples to imitate Him because He is imitating the Father. (*cf. John 5:19; 17:18-21; 1 Pet. 2:21; Phil. 2:5*)
  3. Christ-likeness and spiritual maturity can only be realized by living according to the words of life spoken by Jesus (*cf. John 6:63*), who lived what He preached.

- a. If we put Christ in the background, separating Him from His message, the message becomes too lofty, in fact, impossible!
- b. The Sermon on the Mount is "*The Man on the Mount.*"

## II. AIM.

- A. To Present An Overview Of Christ's Sermon On The Mount.
- B. To Appeal To The Student To Practice This Message As The Only Practical Way Of Living The "*Abundant Life In Christ.*" This Is Life At Its Best!

## III. OUTLINE.

### A. THE MAIN MESSAGE IN THE SERMON.

- 1. "Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (*Matt. 5:48*)
- 2. The word perfect, Gk. τέλειός, teleios, "what has reached its end, term, or limit; hence, complete, perfect, full, wanting nothing." (Bullinger)
- 3. This statement by Christ is not an isolated one, but rather it is the theme of the New Testament. For example:
  - a. The New Testament speaks, in thirty-three places, of perfection as the goal. Notice three of these passages:
  - b. *Eph. 4:11-13.*
    - 1) The end result of these offices in the church is, "perfecting of the saints" and "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."
    - 2) Christ-likeness and spiritual maturity is our goal in life.
  - c. *Phil. 3:12-15.*
    - 1) What was Paul's goal? What was the prize?
    - 2) Paul desired to be perfected, τετελειώμαι, teteleiomai, *ver. 12*, viewing the resurrection from the dead. (*cf. vs. 20-21*)

3) Paul was perfected, τελειοι, teleioi, fullgrown in Christ. (ver. 15)

d. Col. 1:28, 29.

1) The purpose for which Paul preached and taught was to "present every man perfect, (τελειον, teleion), in Christ." Paul preached what Jesus taught him to preach.

2) So then, we may conclude, the purpose for which Jesus strove, in this message from the Mount, was to present His hearers "perfect as His Father was perfect." (Matt. 5:48)

e. Chapter five presents twenty-seven marks of the perfect life, not one of which is insignificant, trite or nonessential. (Matt.)

B. THE MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNT OUTLINED. (MATTHEW 5:1 - 7:29)

1. The audience. (5:1-2)

2. The perfect life. (5:3-48)

a. The believer's character - The Beatitudes. (vs. 2-12)

b. The believer's relationship to the world - salt, light. (vs. 13-16)

c. The believer's relationship to the past - fulfill rather than destroy. (vs. 17-20)

d. The believer's intimate relationships with others. (vs. 21-47)

e. The believer's goal in life - be perfect as God. (ver. 48)

3. Inward division prevents us from reaching the goal of the perfect life. (6:1 - 7:6)

a. You perform your religious acts with divided desire - you give to God, but also "to be seen of men." (6:1-4)

b. You pray in two directions - to be heard of God and overheard by men. (6:5-15)

- c. You fast with divided purpose - you do it before God, yet you want men to give you credit for being abstemious. (6:16-18)
- d. You try to lay up treasure in two directions, upon the earth and in Heaven above. (6:19-21)
- e. You see in two directions - light and darkness - your outlook is divided. (6:22-23)
- f. You are trying to be loyal in two directions - trying to serve God and riches. (6:24)
- g. You are anxious in two directions - toward the physical necessities of life and also toward the Kingdom of God. (6:25-34)
- h. You are criticizing in two directions - very heavily toward your brother and very lightly toward yourself. (7:1-5)
- i. You are giving yourself in two directions - you give yourself to God and also to that which is unclean and unholy. (Running with the foxes and hunting with the hounds.) (7:6)

*NOTE:* These things are the causes of our failure to be "perfected in Christ." The nine Beatitudes are the foundations of spiritual success, but these nine divisions are the foundations of spiritual failure.

- 1) If you are failing to make real progress in your spiritual life, go over this check list and find where you are stumbling.
- 2) Make the adjustments necessary. "Modern psychologists studying the laws of our mental being have come to the same conclusion as to the cause of human unhappiness; we are divided against ourselves, inwardly at war."
- 3) A house divided against itself cannot stand!

4. The new gift which makes possible the perfected new life. (7:7-12)
  - a. Ask - shall receive. (cf. James 4:2-3; 1:5-8; 1 John 5:14-15)
  - b. Seek - shall find. (cf. Acts 17:27; Matt. 6:33)
  - c. Knock - shall be opened. (cf. Luke 11:5-10)
  - d. Your heavenly Father will give you "good things." (ver. 11) (cf. Luke 11:13) - "The Holy Spirit." (cf. John 3:3-5; 7:38-39)
 

*NOTE:* The Holy Spirit will be the adequate dynamic from God to perfect holiness within us. (See Lesson 36, "The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.")
  - e. A great principle stated - "The Golden Rule." (ver. 12)
  
5. The choice is yours. A study in contrasts. (7:13-27) Choose ye between:
  - a. Two gates - wide and strait. (ver. 13)
  - b. Two ways - broad and narrow. (vs. 13, 14)
  - c. Two classes - many and few. (vs. 13, 14)
  - d. Two destinations - life and destruction. (vs. 13, 14)
  - e. Two trees - corrupt and good. (vs. 15-16)
  - f. Two fruits - evil and good. (vs. 17-18)
  - g. Two ends - cut down and left. (vs. 19-20)
  - h. Two professors - false and true. (vs. 21-23)
  - i. Two houses - safe and unsafe. (vs. 24, 26)
  - j. Two builders - wise and foolish. (vs. 24, 26)
  - k. Two foundations - rock and sand. (vs. 24, 26)

1. Two storms - testing and judgment. (*vs.* 25, 27)
- m. Two results - stood and fell. (*vs.* 25, 27)
6. They saw and heard the difference. (7:28-29)
  - a. Jesus' words were spoken with authority - and rightfully so. (*Matt.* 28:18)
  - b. Jesus spoke as no man ever spoke. (*John* 7:46)
  - c. Jesus said concerning His words. (*John* 6:63; 12:48-50)
  - d. His words on this occasion have changed multitudes. His words are the final words, they are spirit and life. Herein then is a working philosophy of life - in fact the only one that works. The God of the universe by His power, backs up this way of living.

#### IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. Jesus Said, "I Am The Way The Truth And The Life."
  1. Christ-likeness and spiritual maturity can be found in this "pearl from paradise." - The Christ of the Mount.
    - a. *2 Cor.* 5:17; *Rom.* 6:1-21.
    - b. *John* 15:1-8.
  2. His message from the Mount declares the nature of God and the example for us to follow.
- B. Remember, We Are Not Sitting In Judgment On This Great Sermon, But Rather We Are Being Judged By It.
  1. We are building our house in this life that will ultimately be judged by the "Lord Jesus Christ." (*Matt.* 7:24-27; *cf.* *1 Cor.* 3:11, 14-15)
  2. Spiritual maturity and Christ-likeness result from living a life conformed by "the Message from the Mount."