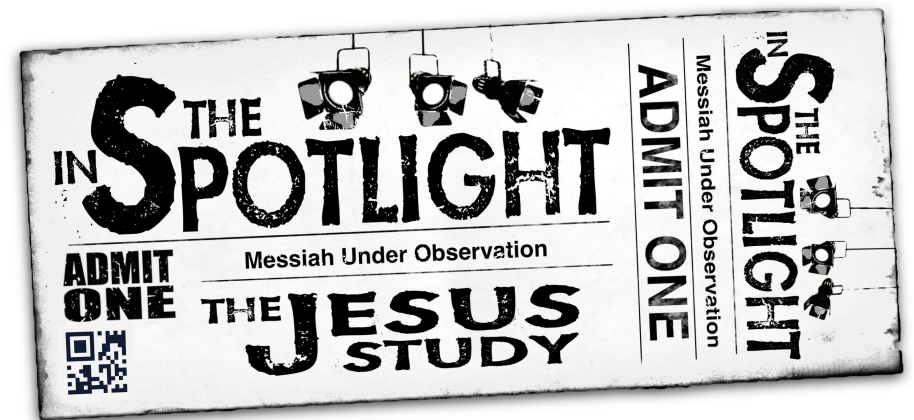


If You Want to Know More:

Scriptures (parallel Gospel accounts)
The Beatitudes: Luke 6: 17-49

Next Week: "When You..." Jesus will reveal more kingdom secrets!

You won't want to miss it!



LESSON 5

**“You have heard it said...
but I say...”**

Scriptures: Matthew 5

Focus Scripture: Matthew 5:18

“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law until all is fulfilled.”

Food for Thought:

Are you a rule follower or a rebel?



Brief Historical And/Or Cultural Context:

Matthew & Luke compiled Jesus' sayings and teachings into one "sermon" for each of their Gospel accounts. All four Gospels provide us with various teachings, and parables. Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount" compiles them into one sermon. As you read, keep in mind that this is what Jesus taught while during his three year ministry. Remember his introduction, "The time is at hand, the Kingdom of God is here, think differently and believe this good news!" (Mark 1:15) His teachings are the Good News about the kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus not only sets an impossible standard for entering the Kingdom of God, he also gives us a true picture of God's nature and holiness. The only standard of righteousness the Jews knew was that written in the Law. The heart of Jesus' message demonstrates that Jesus is a true fulfillment of the Law in contrast to Jewish traditions with the repeated phrase, "you have heard it said...but I tell you." Jesus is deconstructing people's belief system. This sermon shows God's true intent of the law is to live in "Love." Jesus moves from "the letter of the law" to God's true commandments – "the spirit of the law" which is "love God and love your neighbor."

Vocabulary Definitions:

Deconstruction: the analytic examination of something (such as a theory) often in order to reveal its inadequacy

Blessed: enjoying happiness, bringing pleasure, contentment, or good fortune

Perfect: God's standard of what is right

Righteousness: a state of being perfect in God's eyes

Geenna: Gehenna (gheh'-en-nah), a valley west and South of Jerusalem, also a symbolic name for the final place of punishment of the ungodly, a place underneath the earth.

STUDY

SETTING THE STAGE:

Read Matthew 5:1,2; Mark 4:1-3; Luke 6:12-20

1. Who are the characters in these introductions to the parables?
2. Why are they following Jesus?

SCRIPT: Read Matthew 5:3-16 aloud

1. Read the Beatitudes list of character traits. Read the list of blessings, including vs13,14, and "so let your light shine." (Mark 9:50)
2. How does this reveal:
 - Jesus' Character?
 - The nature of God's kingdom?

Read Matthew 5:17-20 "Jesus' Preamble to his treatise on the Law"

1. How does Jesus feel about the Law (Torah)?
2. What does Jesus say about the Scribes and Pharisees in verse 20?

Read Matthew 5:21-48 Jesus is now going to make a point about righteousness. Don't get hung up on the specifics of each verse, but on the differences between the Pharisee's righteous living and God's law of love.

1. Look at all these examples together, jot down the "you have heard" phrases, and Jesus' counter action. (i.e. You shall not murder; you shall not hate but forgive, make amends)
2. How does Jesus want us to "think differently" about the law?

REVIEWS:

1. Where can you see yourself in these passages?
2. How can you live God's law of love to others this week?