**Matthew 5-7: Sermon On The Mount**

***What Precedes the Sermon on The Mount Is Important:***

* Jesus is born the Son of David, the true King of Israel 1:1 and 2:1-2
* Pagan wise men from the east come seeking Jesus and bring him Kingly gifts similar to how pagan rulers from the East come seeking to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Representative of the nations coming to this true King of the world 2:1-12
* A bright star rests over the place where Jesus is in Bethlehem similar to God’s glory resting over the tabernacle to direct His people Israel in the wilderness 2:10
* 2:15 Jesus is delivered out of Egypt after God has dealt with evil rulers seeking to kill him similar to Israel coming out of Egypt and being delivered by God from the evil Pharaoh
* Herod is likened to Pharaoh in the way he kills the male Israelite boys under 2 out of fear that this chosen one of God would arise and take his power and throne 2:16-18
* John prepares the people for this King and warns them that His wrath for His enemies is like never ending fire and judgment and they need to turn to him for salvation through repentance and faith 3:1-12
* Jesus is baptized and approved by the Father in 3:13-17 (mimicking the Israelites coming through the Red Sea into the wilderness which is a kind of baptism)
* Jesus resists 40 days of temptation from the enemy in the wilderness (mimicking the Israelites being tempted with fleshly cravings for 40 years) 4:1-11
* So far, Jesus is presented as: the true Messiah and King from the line of David, the presence of God with us (the greater tabernacle or temple), a figure like Moses but better, as the savior of humanity who delivers and rescues humanity from slavery and brings us into the true rest of God, the ultimate Israelite and son of Abraham that can resist sin perfectly and crush the head off the serpent, the Son of God. The perfect human who follows God’s laws and word without fail. Jesus going through all of these things as Israel did is portraying Jesus as the greater Israel (what Israel as nation should’ve been)
* In the first 4 chapters, there is a great emphasis on the kingdom of man and its evil, shortcomings, wickedness, and the death that comes through the kingdom of this world
* Jesus goes into a region that is largely populated by Gentiles even though it is technically Israelite territory. He goes into primarily Gentile territory bringing news of God’s Kingdom similar to how Joshua leads Israel into the promised land and brings this new nation with the opportunity for pagan nations to surrender and turn the God who rules this people as we see in Deuteronomy 20 and with people like Rahab. 4:12-22
* Jesus invites people to follow Him and these disciples who follow Him are compared to the way the people of Israel followed Moses and Joshua in the Torah. Jesus begins his ministry in primarily Gentile territory in Israel and his fame spreads throughout Syria (not Israel). Jesus is a greater Joshua and His disciples are like the new Israel or citizens of the Kingdom Jesus is ushering in. But, instead of taking over physical territory like Joshua and conquering physical peoples like Joshua, Jesus takes over spiritually and his conquests are focused around conquering demons, sickness, disease, affliction, in that Gentile territory like Joshua did in a physical way. Jesus isn’t leading His people into physical freedom like Moses and Joshua but He’s bringing spiritual freedom from spiritual slavery 4:23-25
* So, now Jesus is presented as the greater Joshua, leading His followers into spiritual victory and taking over territory spiritually for the Kingdom of God
* The last thing Jesus does is He goes on a mountain to bring the word of God to the people the same way Moses goes up on Mt. Sinai to get the law of God to deliver to His people but instead of Jesus going up to come down to the people, His incarnation and birth in Bethlehem is His way of coming down to the people to bring God’s divine word and heavenly ways, so Jesus is presented as greater Moses who came from Heaven and is the word of God made flesh.

***As we read, think about how Matthew has already presented Jesus:***

* The true Messiah (anointed one)
* The true King of David the nations come to in order to worship
* The true temple come down from Heaven (God with us)
* The greater Moses who brings us out of spiritual bondage
* The greater Moses who brings spiritual freedom and delivers God’s word
* The greater Joshua who conquers the real enemy and brings us into true rest
* The perfect Israelite (the greater Israel)
* The perfect human who follows the ways of God
* The true seed of Abraham
* The son of God approved of by the Father
* The greater Solomon that the nations from the East come to hear His wisdom and crowds assemble to learn from Him the way Israelites learned the torah from Moses

***This means the sermon on the mount is framed up as:***

* The ethics of God’s Kingdom vs. the ethics of the kingdoms of man. How citizens will live, those who are true children of God
* God’s standard vs. man’s standard of morality and why no one is righteous
* The word from God himself (Jesus being the presence and temple of God)
* The true and perfect wisdom of God (like Solomon) that is contrary to the world

***Keywords in the sermon on the mount:***

* Father (99 times in Matthew)
* heaven (76 times in Matthew)
* Good (31 times in Matthew)
* Evil/bad (27 times in Matthew)
* righteousness (7 times in Matthew)
* seek (4 times)
* Gentiles (10 times in Matthew)
* Blessed (16 times)
* Kingdom (55 times)
* Treasure/reward/money/give(ft) (32 times in Matthew)
* Eye (12 times in Ch.5-7 26 times in Matthew)

**Father (99 times in Matthew)**

5:16 lead people to glorify your Father in Heaven with your good works

5:45 imitate your Father by loving enemies the way He does

5:48 be perfect as your Father is perfect

6:1, 4, 6, 18 your Father rewards in secret. Give, fast and pray to your Father

6:8 your Father knows what you need before you ask

6:9 pray to God as Father

6:14-15 forgiving others perfectly is required to be forgiven by your Father

6:26 your Father feeds the birds

6:32 your Father knows what you need before you ask

7:11 your Father gives good gifts to those who ask (6:1, 4, 6, 18)

7:21 doing the will of the Father is required to enter into His kingdom

**Heaven (76 times in Matthew)**

5:3 the poor in Spirit inherit the kingdom of Heaven

5:10 the kingdom of heaven is for those persecutes for righteousness sake

5:12 there is a great reward in Heaven for those that endure persecution faithfully

5:16 your Father is in Heaven

5:18 Heaven and earth will pass away

5:19 what we do with the law and commandments relates to our status in Heaven

5:20 to enter the Kingdom of Heaven our righteousness must go beyond religious elite

5:34 Heaven should not be the basis of my oath

5:45 our Father is in Heaven who loves all people

6:1 our Father rewards in Heaven

6:9 we pray to our Father in Heaven

6:10 God’s kingdom should be on earth as it is in Heaven

6:20 lay up treasure for yourself in Heave not on earth

7:11 our Father in Heaven gives good gifts

7:21 the one who does the will of their Father enters His kingdom

**Kingdom (55 times)**

5:3 the kingdom belongs to those who are poor in spirit

5:10 the kingdom of God belongs to those who are persecutes for righteousness

5:19 what we do with the commandments determines our status in God’s kingdom

5:20 you won’t enter God’s kingdom with a low-level righteousness like pharisees

6:10 we pray for God’s kingdom to come here as it is in Heaven

6:33 we should seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness

7:21 those who do the will of God will enter into His Kingdom

**Righteousness (7 times)**

5:6 those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed and will be satisfied

5:10 those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake are blessed

5:20 no heaven unless your righteousness is greater than pharisees and scribes

6:1 don’t practice your righteousness to get people’s attention

6:33 seek God’s righteousness and His kingdom and you’ll have all you need

**Good (31 times)**

5:13 salt is not good for anything if it lacks saltiness

5:16 God is glorified through people seeing our good works

5:45 God makes rain and sun come upon both good and bad

7:11 evil people can give good gifts and God can even more

7:17 good trees bear good fruit

7:18 bad trees cannot bear bad fruit

7:19 trees without good fruit are cut down

**Evil/Bad (27 times)**

5:11 people speak evil against God’s children

5:37 anything besides an honest answer is evil

5:39 don’t resist evil people

5:45 God makes rain and sun come upon good and evil

6:13 we pray God deliver us from evil

7:11 people are evil

6:23 if your eye is bad your body is full of darkness

7:17-18. Bad trees bear bad fruit and good trees cannot bear bad fruit

**Eye(s) ( 26 times in Matthew)**

5:29 we should remove our eye if it causes us to sin

5:38 - OT justice was to give just retribution an eye for an eye

6:22-23 the eye is the lamp of the body and can be good or bad

7:3 don’t ignore the log in your eye and focus on the speck in someone else’s eye

7:4-5 take the log out of your eye to effectively take the speck out of another’s eye

**Treasure (32 times in Matthew)**

6:21 our heart (desires) is where our treasure is (what we invest into)

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5:12 your reward is great in Heaven as you endure persecution

5:46 there is no reward for those who love only those who love them

6:1 you have no heavenly reward is you practice righteousness for people

6:2 don’t settle for the rewards of man

6:4 God intends to reward you in secret

6:5-6 don’t pray for man’s rewards, go after the rewards God gives in secret

6:16-18 don’t fade for man’s rewards go after God’s rewards from Heaven

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**Seek (4 times)**

6:32 don’t seek what the Gentiles do

6:33 seek God’s kingdom and righteousness

7:7 we should ask, seek and knock to have what God wants to give us

**Gentiles (10 times in Matthew)**

5:47 even Gentiles love those who love them

6:7 don’t pray pagan prayers like Gentiles

6:32 the Gentiles seek after the wrong things

***Main Point of Sermon on The Mount:***

* Jesus is correcting and even reversing their understanding of God, His standard of righteousness and His Kingdom
* Jesus corrects and completes their understanding of God’s laws, fasting, praying, giving, morality, love, and being children of God or citizens of His Kingdom
* Jesus is removing all self righteousness and raising the standard they’ve lowered
* Jesus is showing how citizens of His kingdom should live in expectation of what’s coming: the eternal, fully realized, Kingdom of God on the earth

***What They Are (their own self-righteous standard)***

***Those who fall short of the Kingdom***

5:13 lost their saltiness and good for nothing as a nation

5:14 hid their light under a basket not doing the Father’s good works

5:19 relaxing the commands of God and lowering the standard of God. Teaching them but not doing them because they’re hypocrites

5:20 having righteousness less then or equal to the scribes and pharisees

5:21 teaching that murder is bad but not addressing the heart

5:27 teaching that sexual adultery is bad

5:31 teaching to give certificates for divorce

5:33 teaching that you should do what you swear to do

5:38 -teaching to take from someone what they took from you of equal value

5:43 teaching to hate enemies and love neighbors

6:1-4 giving hypocritically to impress people

6:5-8 praying hypocritically to impress people

6:16-18 fasting hypocritically for the attention and applause of others

6:19-21 pursuing worldly treasures and rewards that fade and are temporary

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6:24 you can’t serve God and money

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7:11 God gives good gifts to His children

***What God wants them to be they can’t (God’s standard)***

***How kingdom citizens live***

5:3 poor in spirit (Psalm 40:17)

5:4 mourning over sin

5:5 meek

5:6 hunger and thirsting for righteousness

5:7 merciful

5:8 pure in heart

5:9 peacemakers

5:10 faithful to righteousness through persecution

5:11 blessed even in the midst of reviling

5:13 the salt of the earth

5:14 the light of the world, doing good works to glorify God

5:19 teaching and doing the commands of God

5:20 having righteousness that exceeds the pharisees and scribes

5:22 to not even be angry and let hatred or bitterness grow in the heart

5:27 to not even lust in their hearts after others

5:29-30 take sin seriously and do something about personal moral failure

5:32 do not divorce for no good reason: sexual immorality, adultery etc.

5:34-37 don’t take an oath at all, just mean what you say and be honest

5:39-42 - go the extra mile to love your enemy and imitate your Father

5:44 love your enemies the way God loves His enemies

5:48 be perfect as your Father is perfect (contextually in the way you love)

6:1-4 give for the glory of God and not the attention of man

6:5-8 don’t pray like hypocrites and pagan Gentiles

6:9-13 pray like Jesus tells us to pray

6:14-15 forgive perfectly as your Father forgives or He won’t forgive you

6:16-18 fast for the glory of God in secret

6:19-21 pursue the heavenly treasure (reward) rather than settling for worldly ones

6:24 serve God rather than money, don’t try and be equally devoted to both

6:25-32 don’t be anxious about your physical needs, trust God and do His will

6:33-34 seek God’s kingdom first above all else and don’t be anxious

7:1-6 judge properly and not hypocritically or self-righteously

7:7-11 seek the things that are above, the heavenly gifts God intends to give

7:12 fulfill the Law and prophets by loving people perfectly

7:13-14 Enter by the narrow gate that leads to life (apart from the Law)

7:15-20 don’t be led astray by false prophets that can be discerned by their fruit

7:21-23 do the will of the Father by believing and trusting in the Son

7:24-27 build your house on the rock (the words of Jesus) that will withstand the flood

**Tensions in the Passage:** they’re evil, but they’re called God’s children? God is their father but they aren’t His true children? (8:11-12 | 18:3 | 21:31 | 21:43