**March 31, 2019 “Sermon on the Mount” Introduction Matthew 5:1-12**

I don’t know about you, but I think many times I am too hard on the Jews of Jesus day. I often wonder how they could not see who He was through the miracles that He performed and through the wisdom He exhibited when dealing with the teachers of the law and through His teachings in numerous situations. Again, and again when they tried to trap Him into various scenarios where He could be accused of being a traitor to Rome or a blasphemer of the Law, He made fools of them publicly. So how could so many of them be so blind?

Please allow me to give you a little insight into the society in which the Jews of Jesus day lived. They basically had four groups if influence within their society. There were:

* Pharisees
  + They were zealous for the traditions of the fathers or the past. We would call them conservative fundamentalists today
* Sadducees
  + They were the liberals. They were constantly wanting to stretch the boundaries. They did not believe quite honestly in much of anything
    - Angels, miracles, resurrection from the dead
    - Much like many of the mainline denominations of today
* Essenes
  + They were the ones who wanted to get away from everything and separate themselves to themselves
    - Kind of like monks in monasteries, much like the home church movement of today where we just cannot find a church so we will stay home and keep to ourselves
* Zealots
  + Political revolutionaries of their day
    - Agitators, like various groups today
    - Socialists, Communists, Marxists of today

Then Jesus comes on the scene and the whole Jewish world is turned into something surprisingly different than anything they had ever experienced before. Remember it has been 400 years since Malachi wrote the last words of the Old Testament and now…

1. The Bible is the story of two Adam’s
   1. Adam of the Old Testament
      1. Old Testament starts out with a curse (Genesis 3:14… Satan… Genesis 3:17… Adam
      2. Old Testament ends with a curse
         1. Malachi 4:5-6
   2. Adam of the New Testament
      1. Starts out His ministry with a blessing (Matthew 5:3)
      2. Ends His ministry with a blessing… no more curse (Revelation 22:3)
   3. Adam of the Old Testament was king over the earth
      1. Genesis 1:27-28
   4. Adam of the New Testament
      1. Introduced with a right to reign as a descendant of David (Matthew 1:1-17
      2. King who would and is fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament (Matthew 1:18-23-Matthew 2:23)
      3. He has a forerunner (Malachi 4:5)
      4. Of one who is mightier than I (Matthew 3:11)
         1. Matthew 11:11… There are those who will be greater
   5. Old Testament is the story of an Adam who failed in his temptation
      1. In a perfect garden
   6. New Testament is the story of an Adam who was tempted in the wilderness
      1. Came out victorious
2. Now He comes to preach a message from God
   1. Blessed… Makarios… meaning happy
      1. II Peter 1:4
         1. Partakers of the divine nature
         2. Escaping the corruption that is in the world
            1. By lust
            2. For what?
            3. I John 2:15-17

Things of earth pass away

He who does the will of God lives forever

* 1. What is Jesus saying to these people on the hillside?
     1. You will never be happy with material things
        1. Why?
        2. You cannot solve spiritual problems with material things!!!!!
        3. The void of one’s heart cannot be filled with material things
           1. Solomon

Horses, wealth, women, palaces, wisdom

* + - * 1. Ecclesiastes 1:2; Ecclesiastes 1:17-18; Ecclesiastes 2:11; Ecclesiastes 2:18; Ecclesiastes 4:6-8; Ecclesiastes 5:10

1. It’s what is on the inside that matters
   1. Luke 11:39-40
      1. John 3:1-3
      2. This Bible… this message is for those who have been born again by the Spirit of God
      3. Do you want to be happy?
         1. Study the Sermon on the Mount
         2. Read it over and over and over again
         3. Matthew 7:28-29

Is Jesus Christ the authority in your life and in mine? Why, you may ask am I asking you this question?

It is because neither you nor me, nor any other person can apply to our lives the Sermon on the Mount unless we are born again by the Spirit of the Living God.

Nothing else will satisfy your heart… so look to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.