

Who Is Jesus

Part Ten / Wednesday, February 13, 2019

The Constitution of the Kingdom

1 The U. S. Revolutionary War (1775-1783) brought about freedom from England, but did
2 not solve all the ensuring problems of the fledgling union. The militarily-successful
3 colonies were bound together by the shaky Articles of Confederation; however, disputes
4 and un-anticipated problems threatened the new amalgamation of states. On May 25,
5 1787, a quorum of seven states was secured and the gavel rang down on the historic
6 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia (a the Old Pennsylvania State House, which
7 would be known soon as Independence Hall).

8
9 George Washington was unanimously elected president of the Convention. James
10 Madison kept meticulous records of the proceedings. While national liberty was secured
11 a decade or so earlier, the nation was glued together by laws at this Convention.

12
13 Just as the fathers of America brilliantly put it altogether for following generations, so
14 Jesus did the same for Christians 2,000 years ago on a slope overlooking the north-east
15 corner of the Sea of Galilee. Matthew 5, 6 and 7, reported by an eye-witness (Matthew,
16 who lived in that region), is called by some theologians as THE CONSTITUTION OF
17 GOD'S KINGDOM. The Sermon on the Mount, as it's better known, is not a list of
18 suggestions! *These are the RULES by which Christ intends for us to live!*

20 THE BEATITUDES - THE INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST'S CONSTITUTION

21
22 Matthew 5:1-12

23 **And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his**
24 **disciples came unto him: [2] And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, [3]**
25 **Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [4] Blessed are**
26 **they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. [5] Blessed are the meek: for they shall**
27 **inherit the earth. [6] Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after**
28 **righteousness: for they shall be filled. [7] Blessed are the merciful: for they shall**
29 **obtain mercy. [8] Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. [9] Blessed**
30 **are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. [10] Blessed are**
31 **they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of**
32 **heaven. [11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall**
33 **say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. [12] Rejoice, and be exceeding**
34 **glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which**
35 **were before you.**

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This beautiful church sits atop the Mount of the Beatitudes. It was somewhere near here that Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount. Looking behind the church, you will see the blue waters of the Sea of Galilee. Near the shore and to the left are the ruins of Capernaum, the town where Peter lived and where Jesus made His home during His three-year ministry. I take our “pilgrims” here for a full morning during our visit to Galilee.

* Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their’s is the kingdom of Heaven. (Ch 5 - vs. 3)

Jesus was not referring to financial poverty. He was referring, however, to our need for God! Isaiah 64:6 **But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

* Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (Ch 5 - vs 4)

While Jesus wants us to be aware of those around us who are grieving, it almost certainly means that His followers should be aware of their own unrighteousness and the fact that our pride, our sins, grieve the heart of God. Because of that we mourn. I would rather have taken a physical beating rather than grieve my earthly father. We have a true spirit of mourning that our personal salvation cost God so very, very much.

1 * Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (Ch 5 vs. 5)

2
3 Meekness does not mean weakness or “down-in-the-mouth.” Moses was considered
4 meek, yet he certainly was not a milquetoast. The meek understand full well that God is
5 their strength. Philip. 2:9-11 **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given**
6 **him a name which is above every name: [10] That at the name of Jesus every knee**
7 **should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;**
8 **[11] And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of**
9 **God the Father.**

10
11 * Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
12 (Ch 6 vs 6)

13
14 This beatitude concerns those who eagerly seek after God. John 4:13-14 **Jesus**
15 **answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:**
16 **[14] But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but**
17 **the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into**
18 **everlasting life.**

19
20 * Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (Ch 5 vs 7)

21
22 Among other positive attributes, being merciful means being compassionate. We read in
23 the New Testament that Jesus was “moved with compassion” when He saw the
24 multitudes. God does not allow His people to judgmental. His will is that we forgive
25 and show compassion to those who have wounded us.

26
27 * Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Ch 5 vs 8)

28
29 An old Gospel song asks, “How about your heart?” Jesus is referring here not only to the
30 professors of faith, but those who truly worship Him in sincerity and truth. Outward
31 actions alone cannot connect us to God for He sees the heart.

32
33 * Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. (Ch 5 vs
34 12)

35
36 Who was a greater Peacemaker than Jesus Himself for in His brutal death on the cross He
37 made peace between God and sinners. *Reconciliation* is a word used in Scripture and it
38 means: Isaiah 52:7 **How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that**
39 **bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that**
40 **publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!**

1 * Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil
2 things about you falsely on account of me. Rejoice and be glad because your reward is
3 great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way. (Ch 5 vss
4 11-12)

5
6 It is a sad, but true, part of life that not everyone is a fan of us! But Jesus has called us
7 to pursue peace in a world that cherishes hatred and violence. The fact that Jesus dwells
8 within us means He Who is Peace spawns that attribute within us. It's not our
9 "niceness," but His. Furthermore, our present sufferings are not worth comparing the
10 glory that will one day be revealed in us.

11 SALT AND LIGHT

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13
14 Matthew 5:13-14

15 **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it**
16 **be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden**
17 **under foot of men. [14] Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill**
18 **cannot be hid.** The Living Bible puts it this way: Matthew 5:13-14 **"You are the**
19 **world's seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavor, what will happen to**
20 **the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as**
21 **worthless. [14] You are the world's light--a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all**
22 **to see.**

23
24 Remember the drink "Tang?" That's an old Scottish term and was quite expressive.
25 We believers are to be the savor, the TANG in this world. And certainly the light of our
26 lives and testimony should brighten this increasingly dark world. Matthew 5:16 **Let**
27 **your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your**
28 **Father which is in heaven.**

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Someone might protest, "Well, that was all well and good to believe in those ethics in Jesus' day, but society has changed and, after all, this is the 21st century." To which our Lord responds: Matthew 5:18 **For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

31 EXCEEDING THE LAW - OR, GOING BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

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33
34 Matthew 5:21-28 **Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not**

1 **kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: [22] But I say unto**
2 **you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of**
3 **the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca (an old Aramaic term that**
4 **meant “stupid,” or “airhead,” or “dumbell”), shall be in danger of the council: but**
5 **whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. [23] Therefore if thou**
6 **bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought**
7 **against thee; [24] Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be**
8 **reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. [25] Agree with thine**
9 **adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the**
10 **adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and**
11 **thou be cast into prison. [26] Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come**
12 **out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.**

13 **[27] Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit**
14 **adultery: [28] But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after**
15 **her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**

16
17 Back in verse 20, Jesus taught that our righteousness and morality had to exceed that of
18 the scribes and Pharisees.

20 THAT PAINFUL SECOND MILE

21
22 Matthew 5:38-48

23 **Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:**
24 **[39] But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy**
25 **right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if any man will sue thee at the law,**
26 **and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. [41] And whosoever shall**
27 **compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. [42] Give to him that asketh thee, and**
28 **from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.**

29 **[43] Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate**
30 **thine enemy. [44] But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you,**
31 **do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and**
32 **persecute you; [45] That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:**
33 **for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the**
34 **just and on the unjust. [46] For if ye love them which love you, what reward have**
35 **ye? do not even the publicans the same? [47] And if ye salute your brethren only,**
36 **what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? [48] Be ye therefore**
37 **perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

38
39 God's standards are so very high! We desperately need a Savior, One Who can save our
40 poor souls and can also keep us from falling! That One is Jesus!

1 CHAPTER SIX: MOTIVES BEHIND RIGHTEOUS LIVING

2
3 In chapter 5, Jesus opened the Sermon on the Mount by laying out His expectations for
4 His followers. Now He deals with the motives behind such living. In other words,
5 WHY do we do WHAT we do. This will be a paramount issue at the Judgment Seat of
6 Christ where His followers have gathered to receive any possible rewards. Remember,
7 salvation is God’s gift, but rewards have to be earned: 1 Cor. 3:11-15 **For other**
8 **foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any**
9 **man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13]**
10 **Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it**
11 **shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**
12 **[14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a**
13 **reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself**
14 **shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

15
16 Recently we discussed the Pharisees, many of whom were self-righteous hypocrites who
17 would take a swatter to a gnat even while trying to swallow a camel. Jesus said:

18
19 **Matthew 6:1-2 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them:**
20 **otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. [2] Therefore when**
21 **thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in**
22 **the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto**
23 **you, They have their reward.**

24
25 In those days, when Pharisees wanted to give money or some commodity to the poor, they
26 would go to some busy intersection in Jerusalem and blow a trumpet in order to gather a
27 crowd who could “watch their generosity.” They gave alms to be seen of men. So
28 Jesus instructed them, Matthew 6:3-4 **But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand**
29 **know what thy right hand doeth: [4] That thine alms may be in secret: and thy**
30 **Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.**

31

I have no idea what people give in this church for I have never looked at the books, nor will I. That’s your business and God’s....not mine.

32 The Lord’s Prayer

33
34 I am sometimes asked why we do not recite the Lord’s Prayer in our services. Sometimes
35 we do, but not as a rule. Why? Because this is a prayer Jesus taught us in order for us
36 to learn the principles of praying. These principles are important to God and should be

1 to us as well. Matthew 6:9-13 **After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father**
2 **which art in heaven** (this speaks of the omnipresence of God - He is everywhere),
3 **Hallowed be thy name** (Let thy name be made holy). [10] **Thy kingdom come** (this
4 speaks of the desire of God's children for the Millennial Kingdom to be established). **Thy**
5 **will be done in earth, as it is in heaven .** [11] **Give us this day our daily bread** (this
6 speaks of our absolute dependence upon God for all our necessities). [12] **And forgive us**
7 **our debts, as we forgive our debtors** (if we want God's forgiveness, we must also be
8 forgiving. Why would God hear our prayers when we deliberately avoid obedience to
9 this command?). ** [13] **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:**
10 **(this could well be translated, "When we are tempted, O God, help us out it!"** For
11 **thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**
12 ** Ephes. 4:32 **And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one**
13 **another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

14 15 Fasting

16
17 I sometimes hear (especially from preachers!), "I have just off a ___ day fast...."
18 So...why are you telling me? Jesus' warning:

19
20 Matthew 6:16-18

21 **Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they**
22 **disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you,**
23 **They have their reward. [17] But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and**
24 **wash thy face; [18] That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father**
25 **which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.**

26
27 To be sure, fasting has value – BUT it should be a personal matter between the one
28 fasting and God.

29
30 This next section of the Sermon on the Mount (the Constitution of the Kingdom) should
31 thrill our hearts:

32 33 Material Things And Our Relationship To Them.

34
35 Matthew 6:26-34

36 **Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into**
37 **barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?**
38 **[27] Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? [28] And**
39 **why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;**
40 **they toil not, neither do they spin: [29] And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in**

1 **all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. [30] Wherefore, if God so clothe the**
2 **grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not**
3 **much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? [31] Therefore take no thought, saying,**
4 **What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?**
5 **[32] (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father**
6 **knoweth that ye have need of all these things. [33] But seek ye first the kingdom of**
7 **God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. [34] Take**
8 **therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the**
9 **things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

10
11 If a budding preacher wants to learn how to communicate effectively, he or she should
12 study the sermons of Jesus. He was the Master Communicator.

13
14 The word “homiletics” comes from the word *homily*. In quite a few denominations, the
15 “sermon” is referred to as “the homily.” The study of homiletics confronts every student
16 of preaching. I am convinced it hurts more preachers than helps. If you listen
17 carefully to so many “homiletical sermons,” here’s the outline so often used:

- 18 I. Title of Sermon
- 19 II. Biblical Text
- 20 III. Introduction
- 21 IV. Points
- 22 1 _____
- 23 2 _____
- 24 3 _____
- 25 V. Concluding story (usually a tear jerker)

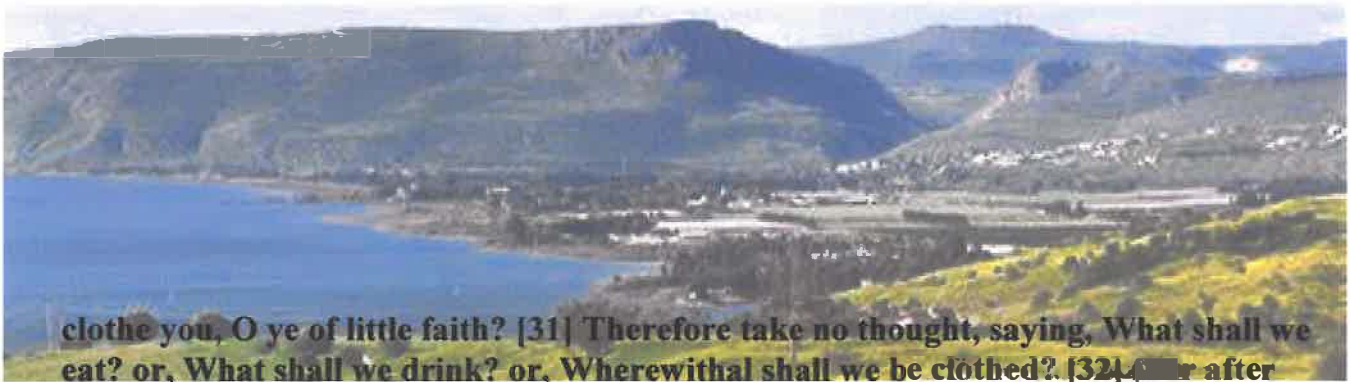
26
27 Jesus wasn’t very homiletical. Neither was Peter. Nor Paul. So why do we follow
28 those rather pedestrian molds?

29
30 Jesus used almost everything at hand to communicate eternal truths. In verse 26, He
31 starts this part of His message talking about birds. Why? The Mount of Beatitudes
32 stands smack in the middle of the Middle East migratory flights of birds – 500 million in
33 the spring and another 500 million in the fall. I can just see Jesus look up at the sky as
34 flocks of birds fly by: “Oh look!” says the Master, “look at the birds!”

35
36 In verse 28, He does the same thing with the field lilies that cover the Galilee after fresh
37 rains. “Look at the lilies!”

38
39 What was His point? Matthew 6:30-34 **Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the**
40 **field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more**

1 The magnificent view of Mount Arbel, taken from the Mount of Beatitudes, overlooking the northwest shore of the
2 Sea of Galilee. The old road from Capernaum to Nazareth winds through that divide. Crusade battles were fought
3 here
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15 **clothe you, O ye of little faith? [31] Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we**
16 **eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? [32] For after**
17 **all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have**
18 **need of all these things. [33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his**
19 **righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. [34] Take therefore no**
20 **thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.**
21 **Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**
22

23 CHAPTER SEVEN FURTHER APPLICATION OF JESUS' SERMON

24
25 Matthew 7:1-5

26 **Judge not, that ye be not judged. [2] For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be**
27 **judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. [3] And**
28 **why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the**
29 **beam that is in thine own eye? [4] Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull**
30 **out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? [5] Thou**
31 **hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see**
32 **clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.**
33

34 Judging other people is a dangerous practice. Why? Because we are not all vulnerable
35 to the same temptations. What might cause me to stumble may not affect you at all.
36 We come from different situations. Yes, we must obey the laws of God, to be sure, but
37 we are not the judges of others; God alone reserves that right.
38

39 Proper Prayer Defined

40
41 Matthew 7:7-8 **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it**
42 **shall be opened unto you: [8] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that**
43 **seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.**

1 [19] Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the
2 fire. [20] Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

3 [21] Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of
4 heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22] Many will
5 say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy
6 name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And
7 then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work
8 iniquity.
9

10 So much of what false prophets dispense today as to do with earthly prosperity and so
11 little with righteous and holy living. (Verse 20: By their fruits ye shall know them.)
12

13 The Two Foundations

14
15 Jesus concluded His teaching by discussing the foundations of your faith:
16

17 Matthew 7:24-29 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth
18 them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And
19 the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that
20 house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. [26] And every one that
21 heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish
22 man, which built his house upon the sand: [27] And the rain descended, and the
23 floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great
24 was the fall of it. [28] And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the
25 people were astonished at his doctrine: [29] For he taught them as one having
26 authority, and not as the scribes.
27

28 Jesus taught with authority! His teachings were not recitations. He was and is the truth,
29 the way and the life.
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33 Next week, Jesus visits THE GATES OF HELL, one of the most stunning passages of
34 scripture. The story took place on the early slopes of Mount Hermon, a magnificently
35 beautiful section of North Israel.
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