



Sermon on the Mount Overview (Matthew 5-7)

Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:19

I. Introduction

A. Four Basic Components

1. Understanding what Yeshua is requiring.
2. Assessment of our own life in light of His requirement.
3. Dialogue with Him about how you're doing and how you want to do.
4. Action: make some changes and make them accountable to a friend.

B. “Constitution” of the Upside-down Kingdom: This goes counter to our natural reasoning

1. Condenses Yeshua's Teachings—Son of God; Creator, Redeemer is speaking
2. Shows us God's Priorities—shows us the way we need to go
3. Not Through Human Strength: Not the way of natural strength
4. Submission to Weakness: It involves a submission to voluntary weakness

C. Repentance/brokenness & Obedience

1. Entry Point: This is the entry point of the Kingdom; turning from our ways to God's ways
2. Narrow Way: Yeshua is the One we turn to—He is the cornerstone (foundation)
3. Narrow Path: repentance/brokenness, taking up our cross to follow Yeshua is the ongoing trait of those following Him
4. Dependent on God: You can't walk this path without God
 - a. Only He gives us His joyous strength to do this
 - b. Only He gives us the ability to have this path make sense

D. Overview: It is impossible to live this walk without God

1. God's Flowers: Core Values of the Kingdom: 8 Flowers to be cultivated (Mt. 5:1-12)
2. God's Fruit: Good Deeds/Called to Influence (Salt & Light) (Mt. 5:13-20)
3. Weeding: Overcoming Hindrances: Toxins/Sins to Resist (Mt. 5:21-48)
4. Watering: Positioning Our Heart To Receive Grace: The Fasted Lifestyle (Mt. 6:1–23)
5. Promised Provision for the Gardeners (Mt. 6:24–34)
6. Proper Attitudes Towards Other “Workers”: Enduring Relational Tensions (Mt. 7:1-20)
7. Manifesting Kingdom Reality: Standing Strong in Testing (Mt. 7:21–27)

II. Core Values of the Kingdom

A. True Spiritual Reality. True spiritual reality is defined by the 8 beatitudes. Implied in all of God's commands is the promise of the enabling to walk out the command. Thus, all eight beatitudes are a part of our inheritance.

1. Connection to God: Can't do this without being born again and consistently abiding in Yeshua
 - a. Once converted, these biblical standards continually shows us of our need before God
2. Closer Yet More in Need: As I get closer to God, I realize how unlike Him I am
3. Progression of the Beatitudes
 - a. Perceiving Ourselves differently: Initial process of transformation as the first three beatitudes (poverty of spirit, mourning and meekness) relate to “perceiving ourselves” differently.
 - b. Mt. 5:6 points to “sustained zeal” as we break through in mercy (Mt. 5-7), purity (Mt. 5:8), and anointed service (Mt. 5:9)
 - c. Ultimately brings persecution that requires endurance (Mt. 5:10-12).

B. Beatitudes: Kingdom Values/Kingdom Flowers to Nurture/Develop; “Beatitude” means “supreme blessedness or happiness.” Yeshua is making declarations of blessedness.

1. ***Being poor in spirit*** (theirs is the kingdom of heaven)
 - a. To acknowledge that we are in great need of help to sustain a right heart before God.
 - b. Realizing our poverty before God.
 - c. Poverty of spirit is the beginning place of the Kingdom in this age.
 - d. Repentance: turn from our ways; ask God for His help.
2. ***Mourning for breakthrough*** (they shall be comforted)
 - a. To be desperate enough to be “extreme” in pursuit of breakthrough.
 - b. Allen Hood: This is not worldly sorrow. It is the groan of a broken heart over the weakness of our frame in regard to sin and the sad estate of the human experience. It is the basis of intercession.
3. ***Walking in meekness*** (they shall inherit the earth)
 - a. Have a servant spirit in the use of our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, authority, etc.).
 - b. Humility
 - c. Power under control: we use our strengths to serve others
 - d. It is the use of our strength to serve instead of to overtake, control, and protect (ourselves).
4. ***Hungering for righteousness*** (they shall be satisfied)
 - a. Sustained faithfulness in seeking God with wholeheartedness through changing circumstances and seasons of our life.
5. ***Relating to others with mercy*** (they shall receive mercy)
 - a. Having a tender spirit in how we treat others in light of receiving God’s mercy in our many failures
 - b. “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
 - c. The poor in spirit are acquainted with their sin. The merciful cover the sin of others and extend kindness to all persons, even those considered undeserving.
6. ***Being pure in heart*** (they shall see God)
 - a. Breakthrough of purity in our thoughts (bitterness, immorality) and motives
7. ***Becoming an anointed peacemaker*** (they shall be called sons of God)
 - a. Anointing to bring peace (reconciliation) to relationships, congregations, and institutions.
8. ***Enduring persecution*** (theirs is the kingdom of heaven)
 - a. Bearing the counterattack for plundering Satan’s Kingdom because we operate in power and/or stand for righteousness.
 - b. Endurance is the requirement for maintaining a life in the Kingdom.
9. **Conclusion:** The way to awaken a sense of being *poor in spirit* and desperately *mourning* for a breakthrough is to set our heart to walk out the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle in a literal and consistent way, especially in determining to be perfect (Mt. 5:48)

III. God’s Fruit: Good Deeds/Called to Influence (5:13-20)

- A. Multifaceted fruit
- B. God has prepared for us beforehand to walk in good deeds (Ephesians 2:10)
- C. As we abide in (interact with) Yeshua He has promised to produce fruit through our lives (John 15)
- D. These good deeds are intended to be noticed and will cause unbelievers to rejoice in God’s light
- E. These good deeds have love at its core; good deeds carried out in the context of the 8 beatitudes

IV. Overcoming Hindrances: Toxins/Sins to Resist (Weeds—weeding our garden)

- A. **We Battle Against These Hindrances:** It’s a battle/war to overcome these (and other) “weeds”
- B. **Six Toxins/Weeds to Resist** (lusts/works of the flesh—Gal. 5:19-20). Yeshua gave six practical areas in which we must wage war against lust (1 Pet. 2:11)
 1. **anger** (spirit of murder, Mt. 5:21-26)
 2. **adultery** (spirit of immorality, Mt. 5:27-30)
 3. **disregarding the sanctity of marriage** (spirit of treachery, Mal. 2:13-17 or disloyalty that disregards the sanctity of marriage, Mt. 5:31-32)

4. **false commitments** (spirit of manipulation that seeks to promote ourselves, Mt. 5:33-37). To use “spin” to present ourselves in a false way about our commitments in the past and the present (by lack of follow through),
 5. **demanding justice** (spirit of pride or bitterness that insists on our personal rights, Mt. 5:38-41)
 6. **refusing to retaliate** (spirit of revenge or animosity in relationships, Mt. 5:42-47).
- C. Be Ye Perfect:** Yeshua ends this section with the call to be perfect or mature in our obedience to God (Mt. 5:48)
1. Perfect: mature in obedience
 - a. Yeshua called us to pursue a lifestyle of obedience that seeks to be perfect (mature in obedience). In this age, we never attain to perfection in the absolute sense.
 - b. We are to walk in the fullness of the light that we receive from the Spirit.
 - c. We are given more as we respond in obedience to the light we are walking in; blindness/restriction if don’t respond
 2. There is a place of loss when we don’t walk in His ways
 - a. When we neglect to honestly and thoroughly confront sin in our heart we are not loved less by God but we do suffer loss in several ways. We minimize our ability to experience the joy of our salvation, the spirit of revelation, godly fellowship and to receive eternal rewards. The pursuit of full obedience is different than attaining it.
 - b. Work out our salvation: ¹² *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13*
 3. Need for continued, ongoing repentance
 4. Sincere repentance eventually results in a change in our character. Repentance includes our resolve to declare war against a particular sin that we commit. Those with sincere repentance quickly renew their war against the sin they just stumbled in.

V. Watering: Positioning Our Heart To Receive Grace: The Fasted Lifestyle (Mt. 6:1–23)

- A. Watering the Flowers:** (5 grace-releasing activities); Our heart receives more grace as we *consistently* and *secretly*:
1. Serve: Doing good works (5:13-16); others will see (5:16) and glorify God
 - a. Fasting (giving of) our time
 - b. Helping the needy (widows, orphans, foreigners, leaders in the Kingdom)
 - c. Preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed
 - d. There is also a false “justice movement” arising in the earth; “works” without repentance and Yeshua at the foundation
 2. Give: Giving alms (offerings) (6:1-4; 19-21)
 - a. Fasting (investing) our resources
 - b. Giving offerings above our tithe to our local community
 - i. Missions: gospel going to the nations
 - ii. Benevolence: poor/needy
 - iii. Ministries that are building up the kingdom
 3. Pray (6:5-13)
 - a. Fasting (giving of) our time
 - b. Song lyric: *“I take my cold, cold heart; I take my unrenewed mind; I take Your Word in my hand; And I give You time to come and melt me”*
 - c. For effective prayer:
 - i. knowledge of God: growing in a proper understanding of God
 - ii. time: scheduling the time and being consistent to keep the time to pray
 - iii. vocabulary: discovering words to say to Him
 - developing our own prayer list;
 - pray-reading the Bible
 - iv. listening: asking God questions and discovering how to hear His voice

4. Bless adversaries (6:14-15; 5:44)
 - a. Fasting (not defending) our reputation
 - b. Forgiving and doing good to our enemies
 - c. Forgiveness *is*:
 - i. Father, I don't hold it against them; I release this into Your hands
 - ii. It is a process
 - d. Forgiveness *is not*:
 - i. It is not condoning
 - ii. It is not forgetting
 - iii. It is not necessarily reconciliation
 - iv. It is not justice in consequences
5. Fast (6:16-18)
 - a. Fasting (giving of) our physical strength and submitting to weakness. Fasting is more about weakness than hunger.
 - b. Declaring that God is our strength and we pursue Him more than our necessary food

B. Proper Attitude Towards These Grace-Releasing Activities

1. Positions Our Heart to Receive More: "grace-releasing activities" in our devotional life that position our heart to receive more strength in the grace of God
2. Not "Earning" Anything: Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word, etc) are ordained by God as a necessary way to posture our heart to freely receive more grace. These activities do not earn us God's favor. The power is in the "bonfire of God's presence" not in the cold flesh positioned in front of it.
3. Submitting to "Voluntary Weakness": These five areas are expressions of "voluntary weakness" because we invest our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, etc.) into Kingdom purposes. The normal use of our strengths is to increase our personal comfort, wealth and honor. In other words, by the fasted lifestyle we bring our natural strengths to God as we trust Him to "return" our strength back to us in a way that enriches our personal spheres of responsibility and transforms us with meekness (Bickle).
4. Calling Us to the Process of Developing Spiritual Maturity: God lives in our spirit but expresses His life in our soul progressively. God fully lives in us at the new birth, the measure that He expresses Himself in us is the measure of our maturity. A carnal believer has the life of God in their spirit but not expressed in their soul or heart.
5. God gives more to our heart but does not love us more when we live in spiritual disciplines.

C. God is Our Rewarder: Not explicit but some rewards that are from God

1. He Rewards Us: We Come to Him Because He Rewards Us
Hebrews 11:6 ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
2. Key Phrase: Your Father *who sees in secret will reward you*
3. He is Our Greatest Reward: He is our very great reward; His presence
4. God's Rewards (Workings) in our Heart
 - a. **God tenderizes our heart** enabling us to feel more of God's desire for us.
 - b. **God enlarges our desire** for Him by encountering His desire for us.
 - c. **God illuminates our understanding** with revelation of God's beauty.
 - d. **God imparts zeal for righteousness** which helps us in our struggle with besetting sins.
5. Rewards (Values) of the Kingdom:
 - a. Greater ability to have the values of the kingdom coming out of us under pressure
 - b. Kingdom "flowers" grow more readily
 - c. These Kingdom values will make sense to us
6. Rewards (Fruit) of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control;

VI. Called to Tend the Garden: Pursuing Our Destiny Without Fear Or Anxiety (Mt. 6:24–34)

A. Therefore

1. Probably linking generosity with the coming section
2. Faith in God's provision is a vital dimension of our spiritual life.
3. Yeshua calls us to escape the slavery of covetousness that is fueled by the fear of not having enough. We are naturally preoccupied with our pursuit of food, drink, clothing and housing. Fear or anxiety rise up in us to resist our progress in walking out the beatitudes.

B. God Will Meet Our Basic Needs

1. As we serve God above mammon, we are not to worry about our basic needs; He promises to meet them
2. Aware of persecution/tribulation for the sake of walking out the Gospel
 - a. He promises to be with us in the suffering

C. Examples

1. Birds (Food)
 - a. Lesser to greater: Birds: most base of creatures: do not plant, reap, or store; God takes care of them
 - b. How much more: Will God neglect Us as His own covenant children to fail to provide us with food
 - i. God will not allow us to starve as we, using all the means which reason dictates for procuring the things needful for the body—look to Him at every step
2. Flowers (Clothes)
 - a. God “clothes” the grass of the fields with beautiful flowers for the day (which will be cut down tomorrow)
 - b. This gorgeous array of the flowers that deck the fields, surpasses all artificial human grandeur
 - c. This beauty is only for a brief moment; you are ravished with it today, and tomorrow it is gone; your own hands have seized and cast it into the oven
 - d. In light of this, Shall then, God's children be left naked—He has promised to clothe us
 - e. It is not a promise to clothe them more beautifully, but in light of that reality, will He not clothe them

D. Gentiles Seek These Things

1. The heathen know of nothing definite beyond this present life to kindle their aspirations and engage their supreme attention.
2. The heathen naturally pursue present objects as their chief and their only good.
3. Yeshua plants a desire in His disciples for a higher elevation far above these things.

E. Seeking His Kingdom First

1. His kingdom and righteousness
 - a. "*The kingdom of God*" is the primary subject of the Sermon on the Mount—that kingdom which the God of heaven is erecting in this fallen world (Jamieson, Faucet, Brown commentary [JFB])
 - b. "*The righteousness thereof*" is the character of those building His kingdom—so amply described and variously illustrated in the previous portions of this discourse (JFB).
2. Seeking first
 - a. "*seeking*" of these is making them the object of supreme choice and pursuit.
 - b. It is the wholehearted seeking that God requires (doesn't require the attainment).
 - c. seeking of them "*first*" is the seeking of them before and above all else.
3. All these things added
 - a. "*all these things*": all we require for the present life.
 - b. shall be "*added*,": seekers of the kingdom and its righteousness shall have these necessities as their proper and primary portion (JFB).

F. Don't worry: Every day brings its own cares; and to anticipate is only to double them (JFB).

G. Our Present State

1. Most of us cannot presently relate: we rarely have been worried about food, clothing, or basic needs
2. Most of us are struggling:
 - a. to understand the realities of the Kingdom that we are to align ourselves with; and/or
 - b. to wholeheartedly embrace and pursue them

H. Yeshua's "Wages"—He Pays Really Well

1. External "Wages": food/water, clothes, shelter?

2. Upside-Down Kingdom “Wages”/Reality

a. He is our reward: knowing Him; experiencing Him

Philippians 3:7-8 ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Yeshua my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Messiah

b. Rewards on earth

²⁸ Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." ²⁹ Yeshua said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, ³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ "But many who are first will be last, and the last, first." Mark 10:28-31

i. hundred times more in this present age

-houses

-brother/sisters (would include accountability peers)

-fathers/mothers (would include mentors)

-children (would include spiritual children)

-farms

ii. persecutions

c. Rewards in the age to come

i. eternal life

ii. treasures in heaven

I. Personal Application

1. Realization: Can't take anything with you; naked I came, naked I'll leave

2. We don't realize what is our inheritance

a. Salvation is not the ending point but the starting point

b. Faith that God has more for us and that what He has is better than what we cling to

i. Picture of us clinging to sand in our hand; when He is offering us true jewels

3. Perseverance Needed: It takes time: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

4. Simple obedience to Yeshua and a call to the upside-down kingdom

J. Personal Story

Isaiah 66:1 Thus says Yahweh, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Four Basic Components

1. Understanding what Yeshua is requiring.

2. Assessment of our own life in light of His requirement.

3. Dialogue with Him about how you're doing and how you want to do.

a. commit time to pray-read through the Sermon on the Mount

4. Action: make some changes and make them accountable to a friend.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

With much thanks to Mike Bickle for his encouragement to freely use his material. I have liberally done so in these notes. His highly recommended excellent 20-part series can be found here:

<https://mikebickle.org/series/Sermon-on-the-Mount%3A-The-Kingdom-Lifestyle>