

Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7

Beatitudes: 8 Spiritual Graces & Rewards (incentive) of Pursuing them (Mt 5:3-12)

This is a list of the things Heaven Values. (foundation: expanded upon)

We can choose to do or pursue all of these.

Poverty of Spirit: Humility through complete Dependence on God releases the Manifestation of the **Kingdom of Heaven**. (confidence, not in selves, but Him ~ Jn 15:5)

(Isa 66:2) But on this one will I look (2 Chr 16:9): on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

(Jas 4:6) God resists the proud, but gives grace (empowerment) to the humble.

Mourning: Mourning over sin (injustice) by partnering with Jesus in Intercession brings the **Comfort** of Intimacy with Him.

(1Co 5:1-2) It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

(2Co 12:20-21) ²⁰For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults; ²¹lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

Moses: intercedes for Israel (Num 14), Korah (Num 16)

Partnership Intercession: us in Christ in heavenly places Interceding

(Rom 8:34, Eph 1:20, 2:6, Heb 7:25)

Meekness (Gentleness): Preferring others before yourself demonstrates that you can be trusted with Authority (**Inherit Earth**).

(Phl 2:3) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

(Mt 23:11) But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Parable of Talents (Lk 19) – reward for faithfulness is authority (Cities)

Desire Righteousness: Pursue Righteousness and your natural Needs will be **Satisfied**.

(Ps 37:25) I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.

(Mt 6:33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Merciful: The Merciful receive **Mercy** from God.

(2Sa 22:26) With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful

(Jas 2:13) For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Purity of Heart: Inner Purity (Thoughts/Intentions) increases your ability to **See God**.

(Ps 24:3-6) ³Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face.

(Jas 4:8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

(Heb 12:14) Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Peacemaker: Peacemakers are **Sons of God** (like Him).

(Ro 14:17-19) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

context: foods and holidays

(Jas 3:13-18) Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

family business: Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6), Peace on Earth (Lk 2:14),

ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18)

Enduring Persecution: Enduring Persecution *for righteousness* proves your Worthiness of the **Kingdom of Heaven** and brings **Great Heavenly Reward**. (value highly enough to sacrifice)

for righteousness = living beatitudes

(Mt 10:38) And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

(Jn 15:20) Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

(2Ti 3:12) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Parable of Sower (Mt 13) – fell away when persecuted because of Word

primarily Reviling, Slander

Rejoicing in Persecution: (Acts 5:41, 16:24-25, Col 1:24, 1 Pe 4:12-14)

1 Great Consequence of Living Out the 8 Graces (Mt 5:13-16)

Salt of the Earth (Preserve), Light of the World (Enlighten),

Good Works: living the 8 Graces Displays His Kingdom

even in the face of Persecution

The 8 Graces Fulfill the Law (Mt 5:17-20)

(Mt 22:37-40) ³⁷Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸“This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹“And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

all 8 Graces fall under one of these two categories

Moving them from Law Mindset (actions) to Grace Mindset (heart intentions)

Law is Righteous, but can't make Perfect (Heaven's Standard) ~ Rom 7, Gal 3
Fulfilled the Law by Satisfying (2 Cor 5:21)

(Ro 8:3-4) ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Exceeded the Law by raising Standard back to Perfection (vs 20, 48)

vs 19 ~ Imputed and Applied Righteousness (walk in Spirit)

Right Actions vs Right Heart (8 Graces)

5 Enemies of the 8 Graces we must War Against (Mt 5:21-47)

Anger (Mt 5:21-26)

Murder (action) to Anger (heart)

relationships with brothers as important as relationship with God
relationship with adversary falls under 8 Graces also

Sexual Immorality (Mt 5:27-32)

Adultery (action) to Lust (heart)

don't even slightly entertain lust (Rom 13:14)

divorce (Mt 19:3-9, Mal 2:14-16)

Religious Posturing/Performance vs Integrity (Mt 5:33-37)

Outward vs Inward

Demand for Justice vs Love/Generosity (Mt 5:38-42)

Mercy (5th Grace)

Conditional Love (Mt 5:43-47)

sons of your Father = Peacemaker (7th Grace)

1 Standard – Perfection (Mt 5:48)

not that we fix our hearts, but that we let Him into our hearts

5 Spiritual Disciplines that Build the 8 Graces (Mt 6:1-24)

Avoid Outward Display: earthly focus = earthly reward (voids 8 Graces rewards)

Kingdom Focus = Kingdom Rewards (8 Graces)

8 Graces seem impossible – must be strengthened by spiritual disciplines

these 5 Disciplines prepare us inwardly (Heart)

Serving (Mt 6:1-4)

builds: poverty of spirit (humility) - manifest kingdom
meekness - authority

Prayer (Mt 6:5-13)

builds: mourning – comfort of intimacy
Lord’s Prayer: pattern or types of prayer
Worship: first and last (poverty of spirit)
Intercession (meekness, peacemaker)
Supplication (poverty of spirit – faith, dependence)
Repentance (hunger for righteousness)
Protection (purity of heart)

Forgiveness (Mt 6:14-15)

builds: mercy – mercy
parable of unforgiving servant (Mt 18) ~ wrist healing story
peace maker – like God (son)

Fasting (Mt 6:16-18)

builds: purity of heart (inner over outward) – see God
poverty of spirit (dependence) – manifest kingdom

Generosity (Mt 6:19-24)

He’s after our Heart – its linked to our money (vs 21)
eye (in context) = focus regarding money
earthly focus isn’t secure (vs 19), heavenly focus is sure investment (vs 20)
Generosity is how we invest in Heaven’s Economy

We must choose between trusting money (self provision) or God (faith)

Money is a Heart/Faith Issue

parable of unjust steward

(Lk 16:9-13) “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon (be generous), that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least (money) is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

If you can’t trust God for natural provision, how will you have faith for miracles?

Tithe: I don’t want your money so much as your gifting (true riches)

builds: poverty of spirit (dependence) – manifest kingdom (true riches)
purity of heart (linked to money) – see Him

Disciplines = Regular, Consistent Practice

1 Great Enemy of Faith – Anxiety (Mt 6:25-34)

“therefore” – context of serving God or money

where we invest treasure (heart link) reveals Faith (self/earthly or God/kingdom)

Worry is Faith Barometer (vs 30 – “O you of little faith” ~ provision)

Provision: (Mt 16:8) But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?”

Protection: (Mt 8:26) But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Power: (Mt 14:31) And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Start if faith, shift focus (anxiety), start sinking

Worry about Provision: Food and Clothing

(1Ti 6:6-8) Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

develop Contentment (eternal perspective – treasure in heaven)

Worry accomplishes nothing (vs 27)

pulls us out of faith (God focus) into fear (circumstances/earthly focus)

B1: Poor in Spirit (faith/dependence) – Kingdom (provision, protection, power)

Worry is Fear Based (will God really provide, protect, empower? Gen 3:1)

(1Jn 4:18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

develop Revelation of His Love (1 Pe 5:7)

Worry wears us down and steals our Joy

(Pr 12:25) Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

develop Joy

(Heb 3:12-13) Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Good Word (Encouragement) makes Glad, Overcomes Unbelief

Pursue His Kingdom and Righteousness over earthly needs (vs 33)

“first” means priority, not poverty

B4: Hunger for Righteousness – Satisfied (provision)

develop Appetite for Holiness (1 Ti 6:6 godliness)

Be with God in the Moment (vs 34)

(Phl 4:6-7) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

develop peace (regardless of circumstances) through discipline of prayer

develop Thankfulness

develop Faith (Rom 10:17)

7 Rules for Life (Mt 7:1-27)

moving from Outward Actions (Law) to Inner Heart Intentions (Grace)

What living out the 8 Graces looks like.

Offer People Grace (Mt 7:1-6)

Don't pronounce judgements on people. ("brother" = primarily church)

We establish our own legal precedence. (Mt 5:7, Jam 2:13)

It is not our job to determine someone's standing with God.

(Ro 14:4) Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls.

Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

We don't know how their story will end. (have hope, faith)

We must all make judgements (determinations)

(1Co 2:15) But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

judge all things, condemn no one (activities/beliefs vs people)

Be very careful where our judgements impact people.

(Jn 7:24) "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

context: healing on Sabbath ~ has a devil (judgement at a distance)

(Pr 18:13) He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

(Pr 18:17) The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

Be Redemptive (vs 3-5) – God always is, Condemnation never is

Goal is to help, not categorize (ex: LifeLock commercials)

Must examine ourselves first to see clearly to help others.

(1Co 11:31-32) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

point of correction is to avoid condemnation

Examine our heart motives.

(Eze 33:11) 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

God gets no pleasure in judging. Do we?

You can't help someone who doesn't want help. (world?)

Win them to Jesus before working on the speck in their eye.

Depend on God (Mt 7:7-11)

Prayer gauges our dependence on Him (story: helping vs helping to ask)

Prerequisites: God is Good (Ps 145:9), God is Love (1 Jn 4:16)

Everyone receives from a Good, Loving Father.

Persistence demonstrates faith – Luke 18:1-8

Follow the Golden Rule (Mt 7:12)

because He is Good to you ("therefore"), be good to others (be like Him)

Discipline Your Life (Mt 7:13-14)

Narrow Gate: Jesus vs. every other lie (Jn 10:7, 14:6)

Narrow Way: Truth is narrow (not relative)

narrow is difficult

(Mt 16:24-25) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

so "few" put in the effort (discipline) – never mainstream (choice)

2 Thes 2:10 contrasts the love of truth with deception (cultivate)

loving any other "broad" way leads to deception, and away from the Narrow Gate
disciplining your life is worth it because it leads to life (vs. destruction)

Be Careful Who You Follow (Mt 7:15-20) – allow to have influence

False Guidance (many voices) – appear outwardly holy, inwardly selfish (opposite of 8 Graces)

known by Fruit (Gal 5:22-23) – requires observation (no judgement at a distance)

doctrine tested against word (2 Tim 3:16), people tested by fruit because reveals heart
why take advice from someone without fruit in their life (track record)

Love Jesus (Mt 7:21-23)

religious activity vs. relationship (holiness)

(1Jn 2:3-4) Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

(Jn 14:21) "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me."

(1Jn 5:3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

desire to obey is evidence of our love (heart issue)

lawlessness can do religious activity with an un-surrendered heart (law unto self)

Trust His Ways (Mt 7:24-27)

everything gets tested, only the kingdom will stand (Heb 12:28)

(Jas 1:22) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Hearing His word and not applying it requires self-deception.

(Lk 6:46) "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Trust issue (parallel passage) – Believe His Ways Work

(Pr 19:3) The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.

His ways seem foolish:

give/receive, meek/rule, serve/greatness, humble/exalted,

mercy triumphs over judgement, overcome evil with good

(1Co 2:14) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

We must make a Leap of Faith every time we decide to do it His way.