



GOOD NEWS

FOR A SIN SICK WORLD

Scripture | Matthew 5.22-48

Matthew 5-7 is the greatest sermon from the greatest preacher-teacher Jesus himself. The crowds have surely seen the legalistic, man-centered pseudo-righteousness of the Pharisees. In place of that, Jesus urges a new, living way based on our identity with our Heavenly Father. Indeed, the key verse to understanding the sermon is verse 48. In the same way the Old Testament called believers to be holy as the Lord himself is. Now, Christ says entirely the same thing in relational terms. Be like your father. That word is relational. A father has children and children have parents. What we think of fathers and much more is how God relates to his people, e.g., his family.

Observation

Read Matthew 5.43-48 several times then practice some observation skills by noting the following:

- Circle every 'you' in vv.43-48.
- Draw a box around 'Father' and each 3rd person pronoun.
- Underline v.44 indicating the command.
- Underline v.45a indicating a promise.
- Underline the command in v.48.
- Now look back over your observations and answer the following:
 - What one word would describe the tone of the passage? (Joy, sadness, peace, etc.)
 - What idea stands out in these verses?
 - What idea or word do you not fully understand?
 - How would you summarize the meaning of the passage?

READ MATTHEW 5:43-48 | Because I am a child of God I imitate the Father.

In this passage from Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" what does Jesus seem to be warning His followers about? What was the covenantal and the conventional wisdom? (v43; Lev 19:18)

In what way is the approach of Jesus' followers to be different than "conventional?" Why?



What might Jesus mean by “so that you may be sons of...”? (v45; Eph 2:2, Luke 16:8) Why might He mean “so that you may be seen to be sons of...” and not “so that you may become sons of...?”

How does someone come to have a heavenly Father? (John 1:11-12) Why doesn't everyone have a heavenly Father? (Eph 3:14-15)

What traits does Jesus say his followers will display that make it obvious that they are imitating their heavenly Father? What is it about God the Father that makes those traits show up? (v45)

What does Jesus mean when he says, “...be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect?” Why might it be best to think of “perfect” (Gr. Teleos) as “complete, mature, not lacking, blameless?” (Matt 19:21, James 1:4)

In a season of struggle why do I want to be complete, blameless, mature, not lacking? In this season of struggle of what should my imitation of my heavenly Father reassure me?

READ MATTHEW 5.14-16 | Because I am a child of God I glorify the Father.

In this segment of Jesus' sermon what might be the significance of a starting declaration rather than a starting command? What does Jesus declare about His followers?

How are Jesus' followers a light and a city? What would be absurd for lights and cities?

Why does Jesus say, “In the same way...?” (v16) What command does He now give?

What does Jesus equate with light shining before others? What could Jesus mean by “...your good works...?” (Acts 9:36; Heb 9:13-14)

What does Jesus want his followers to do? Why?

In this season of struggle how can I be about good works in Jesus' name? How do I let my good works be seen?

How can my visible good works bring glory to my Father in heaven? (1 Pet 2:12) When I bring glory to my heavenly Father during this season, what does that say about who I am?

READ MATTHEW 6.1-18 | Because I am a child of God I please the Father.

What does Jesus say would be the wrong way to let our good works be seen? (vv1,2) Why would we think that this wrong way displeases rather than pleases our heavenly Father? (vv2,5,16)

What way of displaying righteousness pleases the Father? Why might Jesus repeat what he does about reward (recompense, repayment, paying back) in vv4,6,18?

How does seeking some other reward bring the Father's displeasure? How does bringing pleasure to the Father result in receiving His reward?

What kinds of rewards are promised to God's children in Scripture? Why is “who” a more fitting category than “what” for understanding the rewards given to believers by the Father?

How might the pious traditions of giving, prayer, and fasting, be potential showcases for hypocrisy? Why does hypocrisy displease God?

What pleases the Father instead? (vv 3,4,6,18) Why do those things in the model prayer please the Father? (vv9-13)

What does the Father want from His children? What does the Father want for His children?

How can I be reassured in this season of struggle that God is my heavenly Father and that I will please Him? Why is imitating, glorifying, and pleasing our heavenly Father good news and good medicine for a sin-sick world?

How can you and I take some of our own medicine during this season to remind ourselves that in Christ we are sons and daughters of God?

Application

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. Have I sought full assurance of my adoption? How can I daily dwell on the love of God to me?
3. Have I learned to hate the things that displease my Father? Am I sensitive to the evil things to which he is sensitive to which he is sensitive? Do I make a point of avoiding them, lest I grieve him?
4. Does the family likeness appear in me? If not, why not?
5. How is defining yourself as a child of God different than defining yourself by what you do and how you compare to the law?

Prayer

1. Pray that the Lord would do the impossible and give us treatments and even a cure.
2. Pray the nations would turn to the Lord, seek his mercy, & find him in their distress (2 Chr 15.4).
3. Pray that FM families would not lose heart as they fervently trust in him.
4. Pray for the safe delivery of Missy & Clint Kirby's third child on April 22, 2020.
5. Praise the Father for adopting us and making us his sons and daughters. Ask the Lord to shape your thoughts, actions, and joy on your identity in Christ. Pray that his adoption of us would inspire holiness in us.

Afterword & Response

- **ABOUT GOD** | What does this passage specifically teach about God?

- **ABOUT MYSELF** | What does this passage teach about myself?


- **NEXT STEPS** | What does this passage lead me to do next in response?



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