****



**The Heart of the Matter Series (Sermon on the Mount)**

**“Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount” Matthew 5:1-2**

**Introduction:**

 **-One of the most written portions of Scripture**

 **-Longest teaching of Jesus recorded in scripture**

 **-A misunderstood section of Scripture**

 **-It’s not a plan of salvation**

 **-It’s not a charter for world peace**

 **-It’s not future application**

 **-Notice who were the audience**

 **-Crowds**

 **-Disciples**

 **-Law verses Gospel**

 **-Grace and Forgiveness**

**-How Jesus came and fulfilled, but at the same time he teaches it’s not just about the letter of the law. It’s not about outward appearances.**

 **-So, what’s the Sermon on the Mount about?**

**I. The Good News of the Kingdom of God.**

 **-Mark 1:14-15: “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel.”**

**-Matthew Ch 7 in the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus would state if your house if built on the rock, you will stand. The Rock is Jesus and his word (the chief cornerstone).**

**II. True Righteousness is a matter of the heart.**

 **-Matthew 23**

 **-Your heart matters to God. Not your social status, not your achievements, not how much do I know, not how much I give, and the list goes on.**

 **-Matthew 5:20: For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of God.**

 **-Matthew 6:5,8: And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be see by others…. And when you pray do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them.**

**III. This is how a disciple of Christ lives.**

 **-John 14:15,23 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments… “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my father will love him, and he will come to him and make our home with him.**

 **-Acts 5:29: But Peter and the Apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”**

**Conclusion**

 **-Jesus taught with authority.**

 **-Matthew 7:28-29: And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority.**

 **-Jesus spoke directly to the Heart. He got to the Heart of the Matter.**

 **-Matthew 6:21: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**