



1

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
What is the gospel of the kingdom?

3

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."

Matthew 4:12-16

4

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**[...]

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom** and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.

And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 4:17, 23-25

5

„I should!“

6

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-22

7

AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
The only qualification they had was disqualification!
(Willingness to receive and follow was the requirement.)

8

HE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL; HE WILL SURELY DO IT.
1 Thessalonians 5:24

And I am sure of this, that he who **began** a good work in you will **bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6

9

Jesus is not intimidated or overwhelmed by my weakness and failure.

(God is not stressed.)

10

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished.

And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

Acts 4:13

11

IDIOTS!

12



14

WE READ
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
FROM THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE RESURRECTION.

Jesus was born, lived, and died under the law.
Remember when the new covenant is established and what that means!

15

THE QUESTIONS WE HAVE

THE QUESTIONS WE HAVE II

16

17

GOOD TO KNOW!

The calling of the disciples was not a call to **relationship**.
it was a call to **total life change**.

(A disciple didn't want to KNOW what the Rabbi knows –
talmidim want to BE what the Rabbi is!)

18

They went from **providing for themselves** to **depending on Jesus to provide** for them. Practically!

They went from a life where they more or less knew what every day would hold to a life of **uncertainty and surprises**.

They went from **making all their own decisions** to being **dependent on Jesus to lead** and make the decisions.

They went from **using their gifts and talents for themselves and their own benefit** to using them for the **kingdom of God**.

19

KEEP IN MIND:

The Sermon on the Mount is about the
Gospel of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

The Sermon on the Mount simultaneously presents us with the
greatest **challenge** in scripture, and the greatest **promise** in scripture.

20

KEEP IN MIND:

Everything that Jesus says relates in some way to the religious and social situations of the time.

Jesus is the smartest, cleverest, wisest and most intelligent man alive.

21

"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers."

Luke 2:46-47

22



23

What are things that are wrong with the world – that make you really mad?

24

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:1-8

25

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:9-12

26

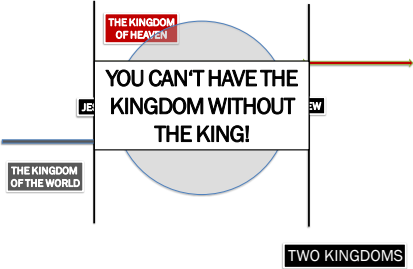
"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?"

You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?"

And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evil does not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape."

Malachi 3:13-15

27



28



29

QUESTIONS

30



31

TERROR AND POWER OF EMPIRE

32

HUMILITY

33

CHILDREN

34

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

35

SICK AND DYING

36

FORMAL EDUCATION
literacy
modern science

37

Sermon illustrations

38



39

A shortcut:
God's loving reign as king, working together with his people to
make things as they should be – beautiful.

40



41

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

42

YOU ARE EITHER PART OF THE SOLUTION OR
YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

43

IN CHRIST, WE ARE MADE TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION.

SALT – you are the salt of the earth!

Salt protects against rot and decay (corruption).

Salt is a flavor enhancer.

LIGHT – You are the light of the world!

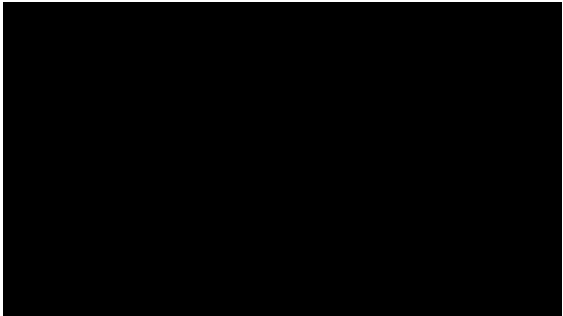
Light is a picture of everything that brings clarity, life, truth, hope, and love.

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your **GOODWORKS** and praise your father in heaven.

44

WE ARE NOT INTENDED TO SEPERATE
SPEAKING THE GOSPEL AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.

45



46



50

THIS IS THE KEY TO THE GOSPEL.
THIS IS THE KEY TO THE KINGDOM.
THIS IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I
have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota,
not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 5:17-18

51

The law.

52



53

Don't work on the sabbath.

What is **work**? To carry a burden, for example.
What is a **burden**?

"food equal in weight to a dried fig, enough wine for mixing in a goblet, milk enough for one swallow, honey enough to put on a wound, oil enough to anoint a small member, water enough to moisten an eye-salve, paper enough to write a customs house notice, ink enough to write two letters of the alphabet, reed enough to make a pen..."

...can I pick my kid up on the sabbath?

Don't work on the sabbath.

Can I **write** something?
What is **writing** exactly?

"He who writes two letters of the alphabet with his right or with his left hand, whether of one kind or two kinds, if they are written with different inks or in different languages - is guilty. Even if he should write two letters from forgetfulness, he is guilty, whether he has written them with ink or with paint, red chalk, vitriol, or anything which makes a permanent mark. Also he that writes on two walls that form an angle, or on two tablets of his account book so that they can be read together is guilty...But, if anyone writes with dark fluid, with fruit juice, or in the dust of the road, or in sand or in anything which does not make a permanent mark, he is not guilty. ... If he writes one letter on the ground, and one on the wall of the house, or on two pages of a book, so that they cannot be read together, he is not guilty."

SCRIBES made it their whole life work to "reduce the great principles of the Law to literally thousands upon thousands of rules and regulations."

PHARISEES (the separated ones): separated themselves from regular life to keep all of these rules and regulations.

54

55

56

FULFILL!

SACRIFICE

PROPHECY

EVERYTHING THAT GOD'S KINGDOM IS ABOUT - IN YOU!
INTERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS - A NEW HEART

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:3-4

I WILL GIVE YOU UNLIMITED POWER TO LIVE RIGHTLY -
AND UNLIMITED GRACE TO COVER YOUR FAILURES!

AND UNLIMITED GRACE TO COVER YOUR FAILURES!

Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

57

58

59



60

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:21-22

61

SOME ANGER

thumos

Anger that is like the flame coming from dried straw. It blazes up, but dies down quickly.

orgē (orgizesthai)

Anger that is long-lived, a disposition. Anger that broods.

62

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

But I say to you that everyone **who is angry** with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:21-22

63

**WHEN ANGER LURKS IN OUR HEART,
IT WILL SPILL OUT SOMEWHERE.**
(and when it does, it often causes pain)

64

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

But I say to you that...

everyone who is **angry** with his brother will be liable to **Judgment**; whoever **insults** his brother will be liable to the **council**; and whoever says, **"You fool!"** will be liable to the **hell of fire**.

Matthew 5:21-22

"Raca" (insults): a term of indifference and contempt – writing someone off. ("just")

"You fool!" – brutal attack, malice. Hurts them, destroys their reputation.

65

66

JESUS LOVES AND VALUES PEOPLE.

67

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go.

First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

68

“WE CAN’T BE RIGHT WITH GOD UNTIL WE ARE RIGHT WITH OTHER PEOPLE.”

69

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Matthew 18:15

GO!

RECONCILIATION IS ALWAYS MEANT TO START WITH ME.

70

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners.**

GOSPEL -> RECONCILIATION!

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son **while we were still His enemies,** we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son.

So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Romans 5:8-11 (NLT)

71

My experience in this:
a few thoughts that help me.

FORGIVENESS does not mean:

...saying that something is OK (which is not OK).

...forgetting - or sweeping under the rug.

...tolerating further offenses.

...feeling emotionally warm and fuzzy toward offenders.

...that justice should be suspended.

My journey and process in this:

Recognize this IS NOT OK and hurts me.
Make known / Speak out to God and them (if possible)

"Jesus, HELP ME walk in freedom and make me aware of anything
getting in the way.

Get right with others to the extent I can (clean the slate)

Make a concrete choice to walk the way of kingdom forgiveness.

72

My journey and process in this:

A HELPFUL RECOGNITION as a starting point: I am going to have to accept
and live with the consequences of this persons sin, but I don't want to hurt
myself worse in the process by carrying anger and bitterness.

*"In reality, you will have to live with the consequences of the offender's sin
whether you forgive that person or not...The only real choice is to live with
those consequences in the bondage of bitterness or in the freedom of
forgiveness...if [a person] has hurt you so badly that you can't forgive them
and move past it, they are still hurting you."* (Neal Anderson)

"Jesus, I want to choose this path of forgiveness, and I choose to forgive ____
for _____. Now please do a supernatural work of healing in my heart"

73

My journey and process in this:

Recognize this IS NOT OK and hurts me.
Make known / Speak out to God and them (if possible)

"Jesus, HELP ME walk in freedom and make me aware of anything
getting in the way."

Get right with others to the extent I can (clean the slate)

Make a concrete choice to walk the way of kingdom forgiveness.

SAY NO to replay (more choices)

Settle in for a (long?) journey.
[external help/inner healing/etc may be required]

74

Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with
him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and
the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the
last penny.

Matthew 5:25-26

75



76

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful
intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

IF THE CREATOR MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU,
THEIR CREATION HAS TO AS WELL.

To look lustfully -> Looking at a person with the
purpose of coveting them.

77

A BIG WHY:
SEX IS NOT JUST PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL,
BUT ALSO **FUNDAMENTALLY SPIRITUAL.**

78

IF LUST IS ALLOWED TO GROW IN MY HEART,
IT WILL BEGIN TO AFFECT MY LIFE.

79

THIS STUFF HURTS PEOPLE!
(and God loves people.)

80

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.
For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your
whole body be thrown into hell.

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it
away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that
your whole body go into hell.

Matthew 5:29-30

81

Sexual integrity of the heart matters
because it affects you, me and others – mentally,
emotionally, and spiritually.

JESUS LOVES AND VALUES PEOPLE.

So he wants a collateral damage free world when it
comes to peoples hearts.

83

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a
certificate of divorce.'

But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the
ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and
whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:31-32

**HOT TOPIC #1:
WHEN IS DIVORCE ALLOWED?**

84

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" (+)

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh.

What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:3-6

THE ISSUE ISN'T *WHEN IT'S OKAY* TO GET A DIVORCE.
THE ISSUE IS THAT GOD WANTS PEOPLE TO
HAVE HEALTHY, BEAUTIFUL MARRIAGES!

INVEST IN YOUR MARRIAGE, SO
THAT IT WILL BE BEAUTIFUL!

JESUS LOVES AND VALUES PEOPLE.

SOME VIEWS

- 1 : Remarriage is OK *only if* there was adultery.
- 2 : Remarriage is never OK.
- 3 : Remarriage is always OK.



Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Matthew 5:33-37

91

"If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth."

Numbers 30:2

92

Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?

And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred?

Matthew 23:16-19

93

DON'T BE A LOOPHOLE LOOKER!

Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Matthew 5:33-37

94

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

MATT 5.38 - 42

95

96

If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him, fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him. (Lev 24.19-20)

A CODE FOR THE COURT SYSTEM!
(not the individual)

97

WHAT ABOUT HANDLING THINGS AS AN INDIVIDUAL?

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Lev 19.18)

Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done." (Proverbs 24.29)

98

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.
MATT 5.38 - 42

99

MY-RIGHTS-OBSESSED
≠ highest level of freedom?

100

WE CAN ABSOLUTELY TRUST GOD TO MEET OUR NEEDS –
WHICH MEANS WE CAN ALWAYS AFFORD TO BE
GENEROUS AND GRACIOUS WITH OTHERS.

101

EXAMPLE 1: Someone slaps us, turn the other cheek.
PRINCIPLE: If someone offends us personally, don't retaliate or let Him be the judge!

WE'RE TAKEN CARE OF!

EXAMPLE 2: Somebody sues us for our tunic, give him our cloak.
PRINCIPLE: Why shouldn't we go a step further to help?

WE'RE TAKEN CARE OF!

EXAMPLE 3: Someone forces us to carry stuff for a mile – do an extra one.
PRINCIPLE: If someone has a need, and we have it, let's help. Think about their needs!

WE'RE TAKEN CARE OF!

EXAMPLE 4: Somebody is asking us for something because they have a need.
PRINCIPLE: If somebody has a need and they ask us to help – God is going to provide for me and care for my needs, so let's bless them!

WE'RE TAKEN CARE OF!

102

NOBILITY OBLIGATES.



103

It's a kingdom!
Where kingdom activities are taking place,
Kingdom resources will be made available.

104

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he [the government] does not bear the sword in vain. For he [the governing authorities] is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

ROMANS 13:1-4

"It is very much easier to go about declaring that there should be no such thing as war between nation and nation, than to live a life in which we personally never allow any such thing as bitterness to invade our relationships with those we meet everyday."

* William Barclay

105



106

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'"

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MATT 5:43 - 48

107

DON'T LOVE ON THE BASIS OF WHO
SOMEBODY ELSE IS AND HOW THEY TREAT
YOU, LOVE ON THE BASIS OF WHO GOD IS
AND WHO WE ARE IN HIM.

108

FOR EVERYONE.

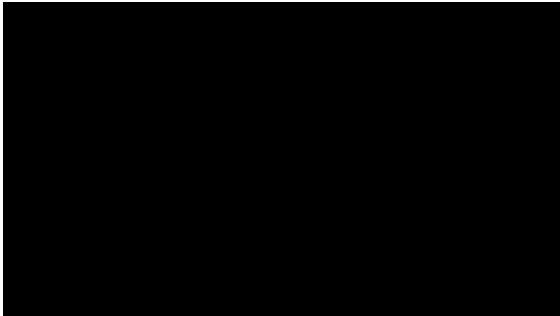
He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**
Heb 1.3a

109

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For *by him all things were created*, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--*all things were created through him and for him.* And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.**
Col 1.15 - 17

FOR EVERYONE.

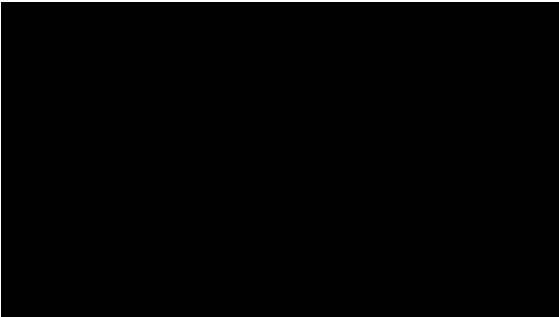
110



111

TOTALLY UNFAIR TOTAL SACRIFICE –
FOR PEOPLE WHO HATE YOU.

112



113

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be **sons of your Father** who is in heaven.

CHARACTER | REFLECTED NATURE

114

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder. You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

(Rom 13:8-10)

115

NO LOOPHOLE
NO SHORTCUT
NO VALID JUSTIFICATION FOR IGNORING THIS
IT'S ABOUT THE LOVE.

116

“be perfect”

117



118

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

MATT 6.1 – 6.4

119

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 seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

MATT 6.5 – 6.6

120

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.
Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

MATT 6:16 - 18

DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
CONSIDER THE REWARDS!
Live for the audience of God – and he'll reward you.
Live for the audience of people – and you reward is "being seen."

JUST BE CAREFUL

121

122

123

A SECRET LIFE WITH GOD HIMSELF!

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying,
"Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"
MATT 9:14

SERIOUSLY?

FAKE?

124

125

126

Who gets the glory?

“When you fast”



127

128

129

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, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

MATT 6.7 - 15

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?”

LUKE 18.1 - 7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

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132

SIMPLE, GENUINE AUTHENTICITY IS
THE WAY TO GO WITH GOD.

133

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, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

MATT 6.7 - 15

134

So, what's the point?

135

When it comes to the father...
PRAYER IS RELATIONAL, NOT TRANSACTIONAL
(it's about fellowship, not transmission of information.)

136

MUSINGS: Some threads to pull

137



138

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

MATT 6:19 - 24



ATTENTION

“Important”
time invested in?
headsapce devoted to?

WORSHIP IS WHATEVER I FOCUS ON
AND GIVE MY ATTENTION TO.

IF YOU WATCHED a movie about a guy who wanted a Volvo and worked for years to get it, you wouldn't cry at the end when he drove off the lot, testing the windshield wipers.

You wouldn't tell your friends you saw a beautiful movie or go home and put a record on to think about the story you'd seen.

Nobody cries at the end of a movie about a guy who wants a Volvo.

But we spend years actually living these stories, and expect our lives to feel meaningful. The truth is, if what we choose to do with our lives won't make a story meaningful, it won't make a life meaningful either.

EYE --> MIND --> HEART --> ACTION

MY HEART *WILL BE INFLUCENCED* BY THE
THINGS I GIVE MY ATTENTION TO.

WHAT GETS
YOUR ATTENTION
GETS YOU!

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

MATT 6.25 - 30

145

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

MATT 6.31 - 34

146



147

- Prayerful Bible Study (invitational)**
Prayer walks – slow, deliberate intentional talking, listening, enjoying
- "Practicing the Presence"** – training awareness of God's presence in everyday life
- Silence / solitude**
Praise / worship
- Pray visually or with art**
Fasting
- Prayer linked to breathing**
Memorization / Meditation
- Prayerful Creation / Tending** (art, projects, handwork, gardening, etc)
Liturgy
Listening Prayer
- Intercession + Prayerful action on topics near and dear to God's heart:**
Serving, justice, hospitality, mentoring, witnessing, etc

SOME IDEAS

148



149



150

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

MATT 7:1-2

151

IF YOU'RE A PART OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,
JUST LEAVE THE JUDGING TO THE KING.

152



WARNING!
JUDGEMENT IS BAD FOR YOU.

- 1. I WILL EXPERIENCE JUDGEMENT **IN MYSELF**
- 2. I WILL EXPERIENCE JUDGEMENT **FROM OTHERS**
- 3. I WILL EXPERIENCE SOME **KIND OF DISRUPTION** IN MY FELLOWSHIP WITH **GOD**.

153

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

MATT 7:3-5

LOG
A JUDGEMENTAL, CRITICAL SPIRIT

SPECK
EVERYTHING ELSE

154

RESTORATIVE

"Brothers and sisters, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

Gal 6:1

155

Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

MATT 7:6

156



157

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

MATT 7.7 - 11

SERIOUSLY?

158

I CAN AFFORD TO TRUST THE HEART OF GOD.
He wants (actual) good for me!

159

An invitation:
To better get to know the heart of God*
To ask God for real desire about what matters most
To experiment in faith...taking things further with God

160

LEAN IN TO THE TENSION
DON'T GIVE UP

161



162

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

MATT 7:12

"What is hateful to yourself, do to no other. That is the whole law, and the rest is commentary. Go and learn."

"Let the honor of thy friend be as dear unto thee as thine own."

"What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."

"Do not do to others the things which make you angry when you experience them at the hands of other people."

"What you do not wish to be done to you, do not do to anyone else."

REAL LOVE IS PROACTIVE.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NOT ABOUT AVOIDANCE, IT'S ABOUT LOVINGLY ENGAGING.

163

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171

172

Enter by the narrow gate.

For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

MATT 7:13 - 14

THE POWER OF CONTEXT

"There are certain times and places and conditions [...] where you can take normal people from good schools and happy families and good neighborhoods and powerfully affect their behavior merely by changing the immediate details of their situation."

173

WIDE ROAD : CIRCUMSTANCES* + TEMPERAMENT
DETERMINE MY ACTIONS

THE GATE : MY SOUL OPERATING IN THE FLESH.

BEST OPTION IS ENVIRONMENT MANIPULATION
(If it's possible)

**YOU FIND OUT WHAT IS INSIDE SOMETHING
WHEN IT GETS SQUEEZED.**

GENERAL OPERATION OF "THE WORLD"

174

NARROW ROAD : JESUS EMPOWERS + DETERMINES MY
ACTIONS

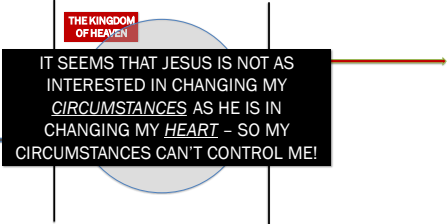
THE GATE : JESUS, WHO FULFILLS THIS (by his Spirit!).

CIRCUMSTANCES LOSE THEIR DOMINATING POWER OVER ME!

*I am no longer doomed to have the interplay of my
circumstances and temperament determine my life!*

THE KINGDOM WAY

175



176

Enter by the narrow gate.

For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction,
and those who enter by it are many.

For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and
those who find it are few.

MATT 7:13 - 14

177



178

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but
inwardly are ravenous wolves.

You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from
thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears
good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree
cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.
Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown
into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

MATT 7:15 - 20

179

BEWARE = WATCH OUT FOR THIS!
DON'T TAKE EVERYTHING PEOPLE SAY IS
"FROM GOD" AT FACE VALUE.

180

FRUIT OF THE *STEVE?*
FRUIT OF THE *SPIRIT!*

"And Moses did not know that his face Shone."

**KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS IN US
MAY BE INVISIBLE TO US
BECAUSE IT WASN'T PRODUCED BY US.**

181

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

MATT 7.21 - 23

182

**MIRACLES, GREAT WORKS, RESULTS, AND
SUCCESS ARE SIMPLY...
THE GRACE OF GOD.**

183

"Then Elisha died and was buried. Groups of Moabite raiders used to invade the land each spring.

Once when some Israelites were burying a man, they spied a band of these raiders. So they hastily threw the corpse into the tomb of Elisha and fled.

But as soon as the body touched Elisha's bones, the dead man revived and jumped to his feet!"

2 KINGS 13.20 - 21 (NLT)

184

HOW ELISHA PERFORMED HIS BIGGEST MIRACLE
(a four-step checklist)

- 1. HE DIED**
- 2. HIS BONES WERE PLACED IN A GRAVE**
- 3. PEOPLE THREW A BODY ON THEM**
- 4. SUPERNATURAL POWER WAS RELEASED**

IT WAS 100% GOD.

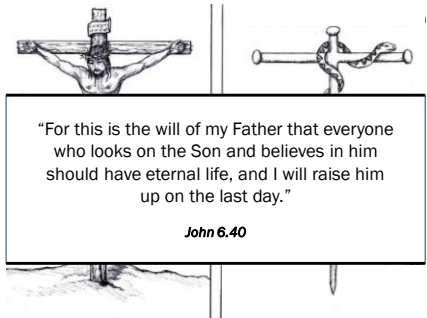
185

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT MIRACLES,
RESULTS, AND SUCCESS - IT IS **CHARACTER.**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control; against such things there is
no law."*

Galatians 5.22-23

186



"For this is the will of my Father that everyone
who looks on the Son and believes in him
should have eternal life, and I will raise him
up on the last day."

John 6.40

187

*"For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform
great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible,
even the elect."*

See, I have told you beforehand."

Matt 24.24-25

**IF IT'S NOT FUNDAMENTALLY ABOUT JESUS
AND POINTING TO JESUS - WATCH OUT!
IT MAY NOT HAVE ORIGINATED FROM JESUS, EITHER.**

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189

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will
be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain
fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that
house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

**WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING
YOUR LIFE ON?**

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were
astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who
had authority, and not as their scribes.

MATT 7.24 - 29

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