

The Sermon on the Mount (Part 1)
The Heart and Purpose of the Child of God (Mt 5:1-16)
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Introduction: What is in your heart?

- A. One of the most dangerous things a person can do is to open another's heart.
 - 1. God has clearly spoken concerning men's ways. (**Jer 9:8, 26, 11:8; 17:9-10**)
 - 2. Jesus personally opened men's hearts and many wanted to kill Him. (**Lk 2:34-35**)
- B. Today I ask you to let Jesus' words open your heart.
 - 1. It is not uncommon to have men in an assembly prepared ahead of time to keep their hearts shut!
 - 2. It is easier to ignore Jesus if you hate someone or if you are critically looking at others present today to justify yourself.
- C. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' description of the real child of God and of the real nature of His kingdom.
 - 1. The world does not understand at all what Jesus teaches in this sermon!
 - 2. We will examine the beatitudes and the similitudes.

I. The fundamental components of how a child of God thinks (Mt 5:1-6)

- A. Jesus came to help men be restored to a right relationship with God. (**Lk 19:10**)
 - 1. How would you start to teach a multitude of people that are willing to hear?
 - 2. Jesus in the beatitudes describes the components of a heart that is right with God. It does not describe different people or things that can be left out and we still be right with God.
- B. One's attitude toward himself in the presence of God – “**poor in spirit**” (**Mt 5:3**)
 - 1. The word used here (ptochos), may be translated "abject poverty." It reflects one who is virtually destitute, or in "imminent danger of real starvation."
 - 2. It describes the widow with the two mites and Lazarus who has to beg. (**Mk 12:42-44; Lk 16:20-21**)
 - 3. It described Jesus in his earthly state as compared to heaven! (**2 Cor 8:9**)
 - 2. Here Jesus is describing poverty of *spirit*. (**Psa 51:17**)
 - 3. We must realize that we cannot impress God! (**Isa 64:6**)
- C. One's attitude towards his sin in the presence of God – “**mourning**” (**Mt 5:4**)
 - 1. The word mourn (pentheo) means "to bewail, lament, mourn for."
 - 2. Do we really take our sin seriously? (**Lk 6:21**)
 - 3. When we mourn over our sins we know we have offended God! (**Joel 2:12-13**)
- D. One's attitude towards his blessings in the presence of God – “**meekness.**” (**Mt 5:5**)
 - 1. Meekness is “true composure, i.e., the ability to be angry at the right times and never angry at the wrong time. Rightly so, the Greeks used *praus* (meek) for a tamed beast (a horse once wild, but now obedient to bit and saddle).”
 - 2. Moses is a great example of meekness. (**Num 12:3**)
 - 3. How do you respond to men who complain and murmur? (**Prov 16:32**)
 - 4. How do you respond to unfair and unreasonable people? (**Rom 12:21**)

- E. One's attitude towards the guidance from God – **“hunger and thirst.”** – (Mt 5:6)
1. Are you teachable? You are if righteousness is your passion! (Ps 25:4-5)
 2. We want to know more about God and draw as close as we can to Him. (Psa 63:1; Psa 84:1-5)
 3. These will not run from Bible study and isolate themselves from God's people. (Mal 3:16-17)
 4. Rather than feeding our souls on lust and revenge and other things of the world, let us fill ourselves on the righteousness of God!

II. How this change of thinking relates to others (Mt 5:7-12)

- A. Our response to others because of God's response to us – **“merciful”** - (Mt 5:7)
1. Do you know the blessing of God's mercy? (Lk 18:13)
 2. Consider the ten lepers received mercy from Jesus. (Lk 17:13)
 3. Those who show no mercy do not fear God. (Jas 2:13)
 - a. How many hate sinners who will not “make things right”?
 - b. Have you forgotten your forgiveness? (2 Pt 1:9)
 - c. Are you refusing to “make things right” so that others will not “win”?
- B. Our continuous way of thinking because of our desire for fellowship with God – **“pure in heart”** (Mt 5:8)
1. "Blessed are those whose motives are absolutely unmixed, whose minds are utterly sincere, who are completely and totally single-minded." - J.B. Phillips
 2. We must have a single focus in this life. When we have this everything will come from pure motives! (Mt 6:22-24; 2 Cor 11:2)
 3. It is easy to recognize one whose complete focus is God. They will not be hyper-sensitive and evasive.
- C. Our work with others because of our relationship with God – **“peacemakers”** – (Mt 5:9)
1. Jesus is called the "prince of peace," but how did He accomplish it? (Isa 9:6; Jn 16:31-33)
 2. We are to follow after peace (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:13; 2 Tim. 2:22).
- D. Our relationship to a world that see us as radicals – **“persecuted”** – (Mt 5:12)
1. What will your response be? Jesus wants you to know about it a head of time so you can think about it and be prepared. (Jn 15:18-21)
 2. In these things you are “blessed” because you are glorifying God!

III. How this thinking is used by God to change the world. (Mt 5:13-16)

- A. The great battle we face is to keep our thinking and actions right. (Rom 12:2)
1. Churches can become worldly and make the Lord sick. (Rev 3:15-17)
 2. Are you living a distinctive life for the Lord or do you mix well with the churches of men?
- B. The world laughs at your example but there will be those that see! (1 Pt 2:12)

Conclusion: What is in your heart?

- A. Did you even look? You will never regret letting go of all thinking that conflicts with what Jesus has taught.
- B. Is Jesus outside of your heart? (Rev 3:19-20)