

***Pursuing a Kingdom Lifestyle (Mt. 5–7)***

**I. SERMON ON THE MOUNT: CORE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM**

A. Sermon on the Mount is the constitution of God’s kingdom on earth in this age, revealing what God most values. It is Jesus’ most comprehensive statement on a believer’s role in cooperating with the grace of God and is the “litmus test” to measure our spiritual development and ministry impact. In this sermon, Jesus calls His people to perfect obedience and to make this their primary goal in life. We do this by seeking to walk in all the light that the Spirit gives us. Pursuing obedience is not the same as attaining it.

<sup>48</sup> ***You shall be perfect [walk in all the light you receive] as your Father...is perfect. (Mt. 5:48)***

B. Jesus calls us to live out ***the eight beatitudes*** (5:3–12) as we pursue ***100-fold obedience*** (5:48). The 8 beatitudes are *being poor in spirit, spiritual mourning, walking in meekness, hungering for righteousness, showing mercy, embracing purity, being a peacemaker, and enduring persecution.*

<sup>3</sup> ***Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*** <sup>4</sup>***Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*** <sup>5</sup>***Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*** <sup>6</sup>***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*** <sup>7</sup>***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*** <sup>8</sup>***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*** <sup>9</sup>***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*** <sup>10</sup>***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:3–10)***

C. ***Overview:*** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to live out the ***8 beatitudes*** (5:3–12) as we pursue ***100-fold obedience*** (5:48), as we ***resist 6 temptations*** (5:21–48), and ***pursue 5 kingdom activities*** (6:1–18) that position our hearts to freely receive more grace. We do all this with confidence in His ***rewards*** (eternal/temporal 6:19–24) and His ***provision*** (6:24–33). We do this ***without criticism*** of others who pursue God with less intensity or who oppose us (7:1–6) while we ***seek Jesus to intervene*** in our relationships (7:7–12), yet without drawing back from our ***wholehearted pursuit*** of God (7:13–14) as we ***discern*** false grace messages (7:15–20). We do all of this knowing that our obedience will be ***tested*** (7:21–27). By walking in these truths, Jesus said that we will impact society (5:13–16) and will be great in His eyes (5:19), receive treasures in heaven (6:19–20) and will live in this age with our hearts exhilarated in His grace (6:22–23).

D. The Beatitudes are like 8 beautiful flowers in the “garden in our heart” that God wants to fully blossom. They define love, godliness, and spiritual maturity and describe the kingdom lifestyle. Implied in all of God’s commands is the promise of the enabling to walk out the command.

E. These ***8 flowers*** must be cultivated as we “weed our garden” by ***resisting 6 temptations*** related to our natural lusts (5:21–48) and as we “water our garden” by ***pursuing 5 activities*** (6:1–18).

1. ***The 6 temptations:*** *anger, immorality, disregarding the marriage covenant, making false commitments, demanding personal rights, and living with a spirit of retaliation* (5:21–48).

2. ***The 5 kingdom activities:*** *prayer, fasting, giving, serving, and blessing enemies* (6:1–18) are spiritual disciplines that position our heart before God to receive more grace freely.

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**II. THE SERMON OF THE MOUNT AND THE GOSPEL OF GRACE**

- A. Some believers think that grace has removed the necessity to obey any teachings because they are the “Law”. In actuality the NT has 1050 commands while the OT has 613. Jesus was not abolishing *the moral law*, but teaching the original intent of the law so that we can cooperate with the grace of God offered us in our salvation (Mat. 5:17). The other aspects of the Jewish law are not required to keep. The apostles did not require Gentile believers to follow *the ceremonial* and *civic aspects* of the Law of Moses (Acts 15:20, 24–29), including sacrifices, religious festivals, cities of refuge, etc...

<sup>17</sup> ***“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law... I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. (Mat. 5:17)***

- B. What Jesus is teaching is *the culture of Heaven*. This will be the pervading culture in the coming age when Jesus reigns on the earth (Isa. 2:2-4; Micah 4:2; Isa. 42:1; Ps. 25:3–5). He will continue to give and teach God’s ways and uphold them in righteousness (Gen. 49:10; Isa. 33:22; Ps. 19:7–11). The beatitudes reflect the culture in Heaven as they reflect the Father and His heart (Rev. 22:14–15; Psalm 50:2).

<sup>2</sup> ***Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He [Jesus in the coming age] will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion [Jerusalem] shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:4)***

***The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable. (Isa. 42:1)***

- C. When we seek to keep the commands of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we demonstrate our love towards Him and grow in grace. (John 14:15, 21-23; 15:10; 1 John 2:3–6; Mat. 5:48; 16:24)

<sup>15</sup> ***If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15)***

<sup>4</sup> ***He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***

<sup>5</sup> ***But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him... (1 John 2:4-5)***

- D. Following Jesus’ teachings on the Sermon of the Mount requires an understanding of our salvation.

1. ***Our legal position***—*justification* (we have been saved), past tense, focused on our spirit (Rom. 3:21–31; 2 Cor. 5:17–21; Eph. 2:8–10). A billion years from now, we will never be more righteous than we are now. We have the same righteousness that Jesus Himself possesses before the Father (1 Cor. 1:30; Isa. 53:11)

<sup>21</sup> ***But now the righteousness of God apart from the law [earning it] is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets (Rom. 3:21)***

<sup>8</sup> ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)***

2. ***Our living condition***—*sanctification* (we are being saved), present tense, focused on our soul (Rom. 6:11–13; 8:5; 13; 2 Cor. 6:1; Titus 2:11–12; Rom. 5:3–4, 21). Our soul includes our mind, will and emotions. Sanctification involves our participation with the grace freely offered, including cultivating a life in the Spirit and abstaining from corrupting lusts of the world.

<sup>1</sup> ***We...together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2 Cor. 6:1)***

# TRANSMISSION CHURCH CONFERENCE - SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SESSION 1 - PURSUING AND KINGDOM LIFESTYLE (MAT. 5-7)

—BRIAN BEESON

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<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared... <sup>12</sup> **teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.** (Titus 2:11-12)*

3. ***Our eternal exaltation***—*glorification*, future tense, focused on our body (We will be saved). When we are resurrected, our bodies, soul and mind will be perfect and fully recreated (1 Cor. 15:42-49, 54; Dan. 12:3).

<sup>42</sup> *So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption...<sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body....<sup>49</sup>...we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. (1 Cor. 15:42-49)*

- E. The analogy of having a million dollars in our personal bank account (legal position) but needing to go to the ATM to access the riches (living condition) is an apt illustration.
- F. Many messages in the Church today only teach the side of grace that makes us feel comfortable. Most truths related to our walk with God are double-edged, having positive and negative aspects. The distortion of this message is in emphasizing the positive aspect and ignoring the negative. The net result is a message that is less than truthful. We must empower the Church to cooperate with God's grace.

<sup>3</sup>*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn their ears away from the truth...<sup>5</sup>But you be watchful in all things... (2 Tim. 4:3-5)*

1. *First part:* You are saved by grace through faith and it is a free gift (Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:17)
2. *Second part:* Your response to God's grace determines *walking in the fullness of your calling*, including how we *resist sin* (Mat. 5:21-48; Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:12-13a) and *pursue the Lord* (Mat. 6:1-18; John 14:15-23; Rom. 6:13b). This is how we *put effort into the new life in Christ God* has freely given us (Lk. 13:24; Acts 24:16; Heb. 12:4; Col. 1:29; Rom. 15:30).