

## The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) #4

### “The Road Less Taken: The Better Way of Jesus” (Matthew 6:19-7:14)

#### Introduction

\*The Sermon on the Mount through the Centuries: “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him and he began to teach THEM....When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he taught as one who had authority, unlike the teachers of the law.”

\*The Affirmations/Challenges of The Sermon on the Mount-Heart of the Christian Life and Spirituality

\*The Invitation of Jesus: To A Life of Righteousness and Faith that surpasses hypocrites and pagans...

#### I. **DO NOT STORE UP for yourselves treasures on the earth...DO STORE UP for yourselves treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-24)**

A. Why? Because Treasures on Earth can be taken away, while Treasures of Heaven cannot be taken away.

B. The Eye is The Lamp of the Body...it is a matter of vision and perspective.

C. The Truth of the Matter is this: “Where your treasure is, there is your heart...No one can serve two masters. No one can serve both God and mammon (“stuff”).”

#### II. **DO NOT WORRY about your life...food, drink, body, clothes, etc. (Matthew 6:25-34)...Jesus particularly calls this out in a comparison to the “pagans”.**

A. Our Faith in God’s Provision for other creatures in creation...How much more valuable are we as human beings who uniquely bear the image of God? God knows what you need.

B. The Questions worth pondering are these: Can you add a single hour to your life by worrying? Why do you worry?

C. The Truth of the Matter is this: “Seek first the Kingdom of God and God’s Righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. DO not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself...Each Day has enough trouble of its own.”

#### III. **DO NOT JUDGE (Matthew 7:1-5)...Jesus particularly calls this out in a comparison to the “hypocrites”.**

A. Do not judge or you too will be judged...You reap what you sow.

B. The Measurement of your judgment will be the measurement of your judgment.

C. The Speck of Dust and the Log in the eye...

**IV. DO NOT GIVE TO DOGS what is sacred...DO NOT THROW PEARLS TO SWINE/PIGS (Matthew 7:6)** What is Jesus talking about here? Why Dogs and Pigs? What is sacred and what is the Pearl?

**A. Dogs and Pigs (in Jesus' Day)** were two despised animals...The dogs were not cute domesticated house pets nor "man's best friend". They were half-wild hounds that roamed the streets—often in savage packs—in search of food. The pigs were not only an abomination to the Jews, they were likely descendants from the wild boar and potentially violent. Able, as Jesus said, "to turn and tear you to pieces."

**B. The Parable** of the Hidden Treasure and The Pearl (Matthew 13:44-46)

"Dogs and swine are names given, "to those who, by clear evidences, have manifested a hardened contempt of God, so that their disease appears to be incurable." J. Calvin

### **DO THIS...**

**I. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK (Matthew 7:7-11)**...Asking-Receiving; Seeking-Finding; Knocking Opening...Our calling is to ask, seek and knock while trusting that God will give, will reveal and will open.

**II. DO TO OTHERS WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU...The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)**

**III. ENTER THE NARROW GATE AND WALK THE NARROW ROAD... (Matthew 7:13-14)**

**A. The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan (the road to destruction or the road to life).**

**B. Robert Frost Poem:** "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." *A Great Further Read The Road Less Traveled-A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth* by M. Scott Peck

**\*\*\*Conclusions and Applications**

**Next Week:** June 24<sup>th</sup> The Way, The Truth and The Life of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:15-29)

### **Recommended Reading**

**The Cost of Discipleship: Reflections on the Sermon on the Mount by Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**The Sermon on the Mount: The Message of the Kingdom by R Kent Hughes**

**The Sermon on the Mount by Scot McKnight**

**Jesus' Plan for a New World by Richard Rohr**

**The Message of the Sermon on the Mount by John Stott**

**The Easy Yoke by Doug Webster**

**Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard**