

## CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Let us live the Christian life as Jesus taught it, to the glory of God.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Every once in a while, we need to remind ourselves of what it takes to live a powerful, positive and successful Christian life.
- ❖ Matthew records a great summary of Jesus' teachings in chapters 5-7 of His gospel—commonly called the "Sermon on the Mount." The following excerpts from this passage are just small nuggets of gold taken from an immense deposit that could easily be described as inexhaustible.
- ❖ **Sermon #1: Live right and be blessed, to the glory of God (Matthew 5:3-16).**  
This section, the "Beatitudes," teaches us the blessings that come to those who are willing to be Christ-like: humble (v.3), meek (v.5), seekers of righteousness (v.6), merciful (v.7), pure in heart (v.8), peacemakers (v.9), workers of good (v.16).
- ❖ **Sermon #2: Understand and obey the spirit of the Law, not just the letter of the Law (Matt. 5:17-48).**  
There are many people who act out of duty or fear, seeking to avoid a penalty for breaking the laws of God or man. Jesus, however, wants us to get beyond fear-filled obedience. He wants us to obey because we love Him, His ways and His laws. Sanctified saints obey because they want to please God and be as He is. We obey from the place of a desire to please, not from a place of fearful, servile obligation.
- ❖ **Sermon #3: Don't be a hypocrite (Matt. 6:1-18).**  
God hates hypocrisy. This was the basis of Jesus' scathing attacks against the scribes and Pharisees (e.g. Matt. 23:13-30). Our lives must be transparently holy. Whoever observes our lives must see the same 'us' wherever we may be. Nothing destroys our witness for Christ more quickly than hypocrisy!
- ❖ **Sermon #4: Don't worry—God will take care of you (Matt. 6:19-34).**  
Worry is the result of a lack of faith. If God can take care of the needs of the smallest bird, how much more will He care for us, His 'image-bearers' on Earth? Stop worrying and trust in God!
- ❖ **Sermon #5: Judge others as you would judge yourself, or as you would wish others to judge you (Matt. 7:1-5).**  
This would seem to be a 'no-brainer', except it's not, which is why Jesus had to address it. Mercy instead of judgment is the characteristic He displayed at Calvary, and we cannot go wrong by following His example.

### KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:3-16

#### ❖ Sermon #6: Follow those who bear the fruit of the Spirit, not just those who possess the gifts of the Spirit (Matt. 7:15-23).

There are individuals who are blessed with natural abilities that can sometimes masquerade as spiritual giftings (e.g. some have the ability to deliver great speeches that can be mistaken for the gift of prophecy). Because of the spectacular nature of some of the Spirit's gifts, it is easy to think that someone who exhibits any of them is filled with the Holy Spirit. However, the true test of whether or not someone is acting in their own power or in the power of the Spirit is the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in their life.

#### ❖ Sermon #7: Build your life upon the rock—Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:24-27).

Nothing supersedes the word of God as the foundation our lives must be built upon. When we stand before God on judgment day, only one code, one law and one book will be used. The Bible is the book that details the manner of life we must live—the "Rule of Life" as the old monks used to call it. The 'rock' is the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. We build everything in our lives on the basis of these facts.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Sermon #1 gives us the Beatitudes, which teaches us the various ways to be Christ-like. Define what it means to be meek, merciful, peacemakers, etc. What are the instances in your life that you displayed—or should have displayed—one or more of these beatitudes?
2. Was there a time in your life that you obeyed God's ways and His commands because of fear? At what point in your life did you start obeying His commands out of a desire to please Him?
3. Review the steps of building one's life upon the rock, Jesus Christ. What are the daily steps we need to take to ensure we continue to stand upon the rock?

### PRAYER TIME

"Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on Heaven's tableland, A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    🔄 (Think about)

! (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↕ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE  
WORD

Start-up: What is something that you are exceptionally good at? Did you come by this gift naturally, or did you have to work on it?