

**The Sermon on the Mount:
It's a New Day (Independence Day)
Matthew 5:43-48**

Introduction

This month, we will continue looking at that passage of scripture commonly referred to as: **The Sermon on the Mount** . . .

Last month, we began to understand that in this sermon, Jesus lays down principles that His ministry will be based on . . .

One of the first things that He makes abundantly clear is that His ways are not our ways . . . Isaiah 55:9 – higher than ours.
2 Corinthians 5:17 – . . . a new creature . . .

Jesus begins by contrasting the ways of man with the ways of God . . .
Matthews 5:3-11

He then explains our role in the world as salt and light . . . Matthew 5:13-16

Next, He challenged us to follow the Word of God . . . Matthew 5:17-20

Today, Jesus is showing us how to properly apply the Word . . . so we can stop listening to bad “interpretations” of the Word from other folks

Matthew 5:21-42 – Ye have heard that it was said . . . But I say unto you . . .
v. 21 – Thou shall not kill . . .
v. 27 – Thou shall not commit adultery . . .
v. 31 – Discourse on divorce . . . – Mark 10:2-12
v. 33 – Thou shall not forswear thyself . . .
v. 38 – An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth . . .
v. 43 – Love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy . . .

In today's text, Jesus continues to teach us by reminding us that . . .

It's a New Day . . .

- I. **We have been taught many things that are just wrong.**
 - A. The religious leaders corrupted the Law of God
 - i. Some was for their own benefit
 - ii. Some was to make us feel better
 - B. Many of us want someone to tell us what we want to hear . . .
 - i. We don't want to be told that we are wrong
 - ii. Nay folks are too self-righteous and want affirmation
 - iii. Too many preachers play along with that foolishness
 1. Some really don't know themselves . . .
 2. Some are afraid that you will vote them out . . .

- 3. Some just want to make you feel good . . .
- iv. The truth is none of us are that good – Romans 3:10-18
- C. So, today, it time to let go of bad teaching and the self-righteousness that follows it . . . because . . . **We have been taught many things that are just wrong.**

II. **Jesus requires more of us than the letter of the Law**

- A. The Jews read the word “neighbor” to mean other Jews
 - i. Most folk are pretty good with folk they like . . . some aren’t
 - ii. Many of us are like the Pharisee in Luke 10:25-37
 - 1. We ask “questions” to make ourselves look good
 - 2. Then we try to justify ourselves . . .
 - 3. But if we really want it . . . the answer is always in the Word
- B. Jesus requires adherence to the spirit of the Law
 - i. Love your enemies
 - ii. bless them that curse you
 - iii. do good to them that hate you
 - iv. and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you
- C. In other words, you have to be like Jesus – v. 45
- D. So, today, make sure you understand what the Word of God really means, because . . . **Jesus requires more of us than the letter of the Law.**

III. **So the question is . . . “Do you want to go to heaven?”**

- A. v. 20 – Your righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees
 - i. Scribes and Pharisees held themselves out as the example
 - ii. . . and the people believed them and looked up to them
 - iii. But they had it all wrong . . .
 - iv. Just like many folks you look up to have it all wrong . . .
 - 1. You’ve gotta have more righteousness than that . . .
 - 2. Being preacher doesn’t make him righteous . . .
 - 3. Being the pastor doesn’t even make me righteous . . .
 - 4. Being a deacon doesn’t make him righteous . . .
 - 5. Being an old person doesn’t make someone righteous . . .
 - 6. Just coming to church doesn’t make someone righteous . . .
 - 7. Quoting scriptures doesn’t make someone righteous . . .
 - 8. Telling us what’s wrong with us doesn’t make you righteous . . .
- B. But the Pharisees were wrong . . . just like many of us are wrong . . .
- C. Jesus required a higher standard
 - i. If you only love the folks that love you . . . what good are you?
 - ii. If you only speak to folks that speak to you . . . what good are you?
 - iii. If you only pray for folks that pray for you . . . what good are you?
 - iv. If you only help out folks that help you out . . . what good are you?
 - v. If you only treat folk right that treat you right . . . what good are you?

- vi. What makes you different from other folks . . . that are going to hell?
D. So, today . . . **the question is . . . “Do you want to go to heaven?”**

Conclusion

Jesus is calling us to a higher standard . . . Romans 5:6-8

When I only loved the folks that loved me . . . Jesus loved me!

When I only spoke to folks that spoke to me. . . Jesus loved me!

When I only prayed for folks that prayed for me. . . Jesus loved me!

When I only helped out folks that helped me out . . . Jesus loved me!

When I only treated folk right that treated me right . . . Jesus loved me!

Minister Kirk Franklin wrote these words . . .

The nights that I cried you love me
when I should have died you love me
I'll never know why you love me

When all was gone you love me
You gave me a song that you love me
now I can go on 'cause you love me

He loved me . . . when I didn't love myself . . .

He loved me . . . when I was on my way to hell . . .

He loved me so much . . . that He died for me . . . on an old rugged cross

*****Tell the Story*****
(for some “no good” folks . . .)

It's a new day!