

Last week we discussed the beatitudes as stated by Jesus in The Sermon on the Mount. They are a declaration that a certain way of being leads to human flourishing. Jesus taught them directly to his disciples and he teaches them to us today. Have you thought of some of them this week such as being meek, merciful, mournful, hungry for righteousness, pure in heart, and a peacemaker?

Matt. 4:23 – “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt – (1842-1919) German Lutheran pastor and religious socialist.

“It must have been a powerful spirit in Jesus that made the people shout, as with one voice, “What is that?” This spirit made them believe him and trust themselves to the man from whom came the message for which many had been waiting.”

John 6:12-14 – “When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “**Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.**” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

The people only thought of Jesus as the Prophet of **Dt 18:15** who would be like Moses and provide food and water for the people in the desert. They expected the Prophet to do no more than this.

Dt. 18:15-16 – Moses wrote: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” What happened at Horeb?

Ex. 20:18 – “When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

Why were the people afraid to confront God? What kind of Prophet was Moses?

What kind of Prophet were they expecting Jesus to be? How did they have it wrong?

What are the differences between the Prophet Moses and the Prophet Jesus? How does this relate to our relationship with God?

Jesus brought a new rulership to the world. Different than what was here before.

John 3:20 – Jesus said: “**Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**” What does this mean to you? What does this tell you about the people and religious leaders of the time of Jesus?

“Today we are subservient to many different authorities. Some of us are directed in one way, others in another..... But where is the reign of God?” Our culture promotes the self-lifestyle of creating a life that revolves around oneself. To live a full life we must accomplish things and own things. How does this differ from what a God centered life is to be?

“So when you hear about God’s kingdom, be true to it; that is the only thing required of us. Be faithful. Where alien influences creep in - away with them - we want God alone! Let nothing else have dominion; everything depends on this.”

Jesus went forth and preached the “Good News”, a complete reversal of the way the world had taught man to live. We as followers of his word are to take action to live this way.

Why is Jesus relying on us to take action in our lives in order for the “Good News” to spread? What does this action really accomplish in our lives and the lives of those around us?

Rev. 3:15-16 – Jesus said: “**I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are luke-warm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.**”

Jesus said this to the Church in Laodicea about their actions and lifestyles. What is Jesus telling us in this scripture?

Why are their actions and lifestyles so determinant of their salvation?