

BA Devotional: Matthew 5–8

You want to know what Jesus is about?

Read Matthew 5–8.

But fair warning—this isn't spiritual self-help.

It's a **spiritual war manual**.

This is where Jesus lays out what kingdom living actually looks like. It's not soft. It's not passive. It's not safe.

It's a call to **die to yourself** before you pretend to represent Him.

Jesus Doesn't Lower the Bar—He Sets It on Fire

Matthew 5 begins with what we've labeled "The Beatitudes." But these aren't feel-good fortune cookies. They're declarations of war against pride, comfort, and fake religion.

- *"Blessed are the poor in spirit..."*
- *"Blessed are those who mourn..."*
- *"Blessed are the persecuted..."*

Wait—what? That's not how the world defines blessing.

But Jesus isn't building a fan base. He's building *soldiers*.

Then He says, "You are the salt of the earth... the light of the world." Translation? **You better live in such a way that darkness gets uncomfortable when you show up.**

By the time He's done redefining murder, lust, retaliation, and love, one thing becomes clear:

Jesus isn't looking for guys who act right.

He's looking for men who are holy from the inside out.

Secret Devotion Is the True Strength of a Man

In Matthew 6, Jesus calls out the religious flexers—the ones who fast loud, pray louder, and give publicly so people applaud. He tears it down with surgical precision:

"When you give... don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."

"When you pray... go into your room and shut the door."

"When you fast... wash your face and smile."

God sees what's done in secret.

The applause of men will rot.

The approval of God will stand.

Then Jesus drops the hammer on anxiety:

“*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...*” (6:33)

You want peace? Stop worshiping control.

Start prioritizing the King. Not your plan. *His kingdom.*

Jesus Isn't Looking for Fans—He's Building Fighters

Matthew 7 reminds us that the narrow road is *hard*. Few walk it. But it leads to **life**.

The wide road? Comfortable. Popular. But it ends in **destruction**.

Jesus says some terrifying things here:

“*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...*”

You can sing the songs. Wear the verse tattoos. Quote the Bible.

But if you don't *obey*, it's counterfeit.

Obedience isn't legalism. It's loyalty.

Then He tells us:

- You'll know a tree by its fruit.
- The storms will come.
- Only those who build on the rock—*His words*—will stand.

Jesus Has All Authority—and He'll Use It

Matthew 8 shows Jesus healing a leper, calming a storm, and commanding demons. The disciples are floored:

“*Even the winds and the sea obey Him!*”

Here's the thing:

The storm listens.

The demons flee.

The sickness bows.

So why do *we* hesitate to obey?

If Jesus commands creation, He deserves your complete surrender.

Devotional Challenge

Jesus isn't asking for your opinion—He's demanding your allegiance.

Ask yourself:

- Where am I putting on a show spiritually while staying distant privately?

- What's one thing Jesus has said to do that I've been avoiding?
- Am I building my life on the Rock—or on religious sand?

Confess it. Repent of it. And step into obedience—today.

Final Word

The Sermon on the Mount wasn't given to motivate.
It was given to **divide**—the committed from the comfortable.

You want to live like a kingdom man?
You'll have to surrender your pride.
Kill your sin.
Turn down the noise.
And let the Word expose your soul.

Jesus isn't recruiting cheerleaders.
He's raising up cross-carriers.

So, suit up.
Get in the Word.
And let your life *preach louder than your lips*.

THE TATTOOED APOLOGIST

