



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

### Jesus' Sermon on the Mount!

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 5:1-12

**Focus Verses:** Matthew 5:6; 6:33 – <sup>6</sup>Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled....  
<sup>33</sup>But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Truth About Covenant:** Jesus redefined covenant as a law of love.

**Covenant Context:** In a similar manner as Moses, Jesus climbed a mountain and shared God's covenant with His people. Much of His Sermon on the Mount centered around living in the kingdom of God, which pointed out our internal motives direct our external actions. At the end of His life, Jesus specifically pointed to the gospel as the new covenant He was offering humanity.

Jesus' ministry garnered Him much popularity. Traveling the countryside, preaching and teaching with authority, healing people, and casting out devils (Matthew 4:25). As Jesus saw the crowds following Him, He ascended a mountain—a natural location for divine revelation. After continuing to teach on the kingdom of God, Jesus ended His discourse by highlighting the authority and sobriety of His words. Blessing and warning bookended Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Indeed, these words have been a keystone message for generations of Christians seeking to be Jesus' disciples. Let us live and love Jesus' words all the more, for these words grant access to life in His kingdom. They are the words of God.

Jesus' teaching was unique because He taught with authority, not like the other rabbis who simply taught what others wrote. When Jesus taught, it was as if He wrote the words Himself. He taught with an intense focus on the heart: the internal motivations of keeping God's law. Our eternal behavior of keeping God's law does matter to Jesus, but He knew the true source of keeping God's law begins in the heart. Lust leads to adultery; hatred of viewing someone as worthless (calling them raca or fool) leads to murder. Jesus' teaching often left His hearers astonished or amazed. The poor in spirit, the meek, and those who desire righteousness (right living and relationship between God and others) stand as exemplars of the good life, the covenant life. Since Jesus' words are true, they should be our guiding light.

To the people living under Roman rule, Jesus praised those who would "hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake," pointing to them as those who will inherit the kingdom of God. The arrival of the kingdom of God is the arrival of God's active reign, His authority in the realm of humanity. However, the fullness of God's kingdom would only come about after Jesus Christ had suffered, died, and risen.

Certainly, Jesus performed many signs and taught amazing lessons to testify that God's kingdom had arrived, but His true purpose was to inaugurate a new covenant. This covenant was new because it contained a new work of God as He lived righteously with humanity as a man, and He would soon offer the remission of sins through baptism in His name and the infilling of His Holy Spirit. The giving of the Spirit—in tandem with the forgiveness of sins—allows us as believers to walk faithfully with Jesus Christ. Paul stated it plainly: "*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit*" (Galatians 5:25).

But how do we walk in the Spirit? A constant connection with and dependence on God. We do that through prayer (Acts 4:31; Ephesians 1; 15-17, 6:18; Romans 8:26). Worship is another way to encounter God's Spirit (Colossians 3:16). Reading, studying, and hearing the Scripture are perhaps the best ways to ensure we walk in the Spirit because the Word of God defines what a life in the Spirit looks like. **The Word of God is our anchor.**

With the strength of God's Spirit on offer, our response should be thankfulness and obedience. We should pursue all avenues of allowing the Spirit of God to actively shape and lead our lives. How do we know the Spirit is doing that? Our lives will align with the teachings of Jesus and the whole of Scripture. We will want to be just like our Jesus as we walk closer daily with Him.

In fact, anything God requires of you, or anybody, is possible. Not because God has a keen interest in seeing it done—such an interest that He filled each of us with His personal presence. Following Christ is not always easy, but it's possible. Keep at it, OK? We can follow Jesus because Jesus Christ Himself endows us with the ability to do so.