

LISTENING TO JESUS TEACH!

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When the Lord Jesus gives His sermon, the world should be listening carefully and ready to follow every word of instruction. The most important Commandment Jesus said, is Matthew 22:36 *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.”* We are to love God because He has always loved us.

Jesus is speaking a message of truth to a crowd of people listening: Matthew 5:38 *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”*

The Master taught that we are to do no violence to anyone at any time. Many are listening but are they hearing—that is the issue. Jesus goes on to say that if anyone sues us and by law wants to take something from us, we are to give it to them and to not even refuse anything else they demand.

If someone compels us to drive them somewhere, we are to do that and take them even beyond where they want to go. Matthew 5:40-42. If anyone asks for something or wants to borrow something we have, we are not to refuse them.

The assembled people are hearing a powerful sermon from the Lord—a message that would lead to eternal life, if *accepted, followed, and lived.* Matthew 5:44 *“I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that*

hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you—the result of loving, blessing, doing good, and praying. 45 “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.”

He went on to teach that it is *easy* to love those who love *us*—even the *world* does that, but the *spiritual* reward is received when we love those who do *not* love us and may even take advantage of us. Matthew 5:48 *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”* Allowing God to perfect our *faith* in Him enables us to be *right* with Him.

Jesus’ sermon included giving to the poor in a way that no one knows we gave. Hypocrites want to be seen by others and bring attention to themselves—but they will Matthew 6:1 *“Have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.”* Matthew 6:3 *“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”*—then the Father 4 *“Will Himself reward you openly.”*

The Lord next taught on how to pray, and He mentions hypocrites who do things so others can notice and be impressed. They already have their reward from people, He said, and *not* from the Lord. Matthew 6:6 *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* God already knows our needs and will *meet* them as we *trust* Him in faith.

Matthew 6:9 *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

Showing utmost respect for God’s holy name is first on the list, and being ready for the return of Jesus is a *continuing* attitude. Each day we ask God to show us His will in all that we say and do. Our daily prayer is that the needs of that day will be met in a scriptural manner—being confident that the answer will be received.

Everyone needs forgiveness because everyone has sinned many times and in many ways. That needed forgiveness, however, is received only when *we* are *willing* to *forgive*—to let go of wrong attitudes or long-held resentments toward anyone for whatever may have happened.

Everyone needs God’s protection from wicked acts of unbelievers, and we are to be sure that we are not leading *ourselves* into tempting situations by deliberately viewing tempting images.

Our prayer includes deliverance from every type of evil actions that surround everyone today—and giving God all the glory for the many victories and deliverances He has already granted to us. It was *His* power that gave the deliverance, so it is to *His* glory and praise—that is why we continually thank Him.

Our prayer, the Lord said, should include Matthew 6:12 *“And forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.”* We not only *ask* for His forgiveness, but we *give* the same to anyone who may have wronged us. Matthew 6:14 *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

The Lord also spoke on fasting and prayer—reminding us *not* to tell others we are fasting nor to even indicate that we are doing so. We should go about our normal activities as usual—Matthew 6:17 *“But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret:*

and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.” Fasting is a matter between the individual and God.

Jesus taught on financial trust because the world is obsessed with keeping money in reserve somewhere on earth. They want enough for any need that could arise suddenly. Jesus was very clear, however—Matthew 6:19 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,” where anything could happen to them, 20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”—where nothing can harm them; 21 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

The Lord said Matthew 6:22 “The lamp of the body is the eye.” If we look at things from a scriptural viewpoint, we will be blessed and will grow in faith. Matthew 6:23 “But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.” It is a warning that spiritual darkness only gets worse if we do not deal with it—and Jesus saying “How great is that darkness!”

He continued to teach that no one can serve the Lord and the world at the same time. It is either one or the other—we either deal with the issues of life in a scriptural way or deal with them in an unscriptural way—that is the choice. Matthew 6:24 “You cannot serve both God and Money.”

Although many people are anxious about a multitude of things—all such worry indicates a lack of trust on what God has promised to do for those who trust Him in faith. Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life.” Jesus is teaching, but millions are not hearing what He is telling them—that is the problem.

Worry does not solve anything, and it does not change anything—but prayer can solve things and it can change things. Whatever is needed, it is to be placed before God in prayer—Matthew 6:32 “For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God

and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Too often we are seeking things first and hoping to be right with God second. His teaching is clear, however—do not worry about things and instead put all things before the Father in prayer and in faith for His provision and peace about it.

Matthew 6:34 “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” There is enough to deal with each day, so we are not to burden ourselves with thoughts concerning tomorrow’s issues.

Jesus taught Matthew 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Those who enter Heaven did not just talk about faith, but they acted in faith. They trusted God for divine healing when oppressed and trusted Him to supply the needs for that day.

The Lord followed up that teaching by emphasizing how important it is to hear the words of His message and to live by them. Matthew 7:24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

In the time of serious trials and temptations, those with a firm foundation did not fall away from faith 25 “For it was founded on the rock.” Many there are who claim to have faith in God—and they may hear sermons every week, 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Much spiritual wisdom is contained in the Lord’s Sermon on the Mount—we must hear it; accept it; and live by the instructions—the Holy

Spirit will help us make it part of our everyday life. It is the greatest sermon by the Master Himself—who took the time to speak on all these subjects that are so relevant to our lives today.

The Lord again showed His creative power by feeding about 20,000 people with five loaves and two fish. Little is much in the hand of God. He takes a minuscule amount of food and turns it into a bountiful harvest—little is much when God is in control.

Everyone there was fed and many basketfuls were left over. The devil tries to have us forget what God has done for us, so we must be aware and to thank God every day for the blessings He has already bestowed.

This teaching on the mount concludes—Matthew 7:28 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

He spoke with authority because He was sent by the Father to teach what He did. John 12:49 “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.”

Now it is our responsibility to hear His teaching; to heed His instructions, and with the Holy Spirits help, make it part of our everyday life!



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