

Message from the Messiah!

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We have little information on the early years of Jesus, but we *do* know that He Luke 2:52 “*Increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.* His knowledge would be unlimited since He is God in person. If the divine plan God gives us is followed, it will work out for our spiritual and eternal benefit.

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River as the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. Some time later, Jesus Matthew 17:1 takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain. ⁵ “*Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*” This is the beginning of an eternal plan to save a lost world.

Soon after, the enemy shows up to tempt the Lord. After Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, the devil thinks the Lord will fall for his temptations. Matthew 4:3 “*And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*”

Jesus responds with Scripture Matthew 4:4 “*It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*” The Word is more important than food. The devil does not give up easily and tempts Jesus to jump off the Temple—angels will protect, the devil adds. Matthew 4:7 “*Jesus said unto him, It*

is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

Tempting Jesus will not work, but Satan keeps trying. He offers all the world kingdoms—Matthew 4:9 “*If thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*”

Three times and three refusals—Jesus is giving us a lesson on *resisting* the devil. No matter what Satan offers us, or what he wants us to desire outside of God’s will, if we will *resist*, the devil will *flee*. Every time Satan tempted, Jesus quoted the Word 3 times—from Deuteronomy.

When we are tempted by the devil, we go right to the Scriptures and quote from them—that is *resisting* Satan and *resisting* temptation. The Word of God worked for the Lord, and it will work for us too. We wonder how many people read of the way Jesus resisted temptation—and how many follow His example? Time will *tell*—and time has *spoken*, very few!

Before giving His *sermon*, Jesus performs His first *miracle*. He is showing again that He is the *Creator* of all and He is *over* all. He turns water into wine as only He could do. At creation, He had power over the elements, and He still does.

Jesus is showing the world His divine nature, His power, and His creative ability, but the world always *doubts* and *questions* His power—even though the evidence is overwhelming. Anyone who accepts Jesus as their Messiah, will see their faith increase in what He can do.

Following the temptations, Jesus goes up on a mount to speak to an assembly of people—it is an important speech on eternal truths—called the Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3 “*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*”

If we will take a humble attitude, God is able to work with us and teach us divine principles of trust on Him that result in eternal life. ⁴ “*Blessed*

are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” If we face a loss or are troubled, God promises to strengthen and comfort us.

He says ⁵ “*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*” It is God’s promise to give us what we need just by being humble, gentle, and willing to trust Him in faith. He adds: ⁶ “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*”

If we will sincerely seek God’s Truth, and we truly want to know how to be righteous in His sight, He promises to give us the wisdom to *know* the importance of trusting Him.

⁷ “*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*” We have all made mistakes and have taken wrong attitudes—all too many times. We all need God’s mercy, so we should humbly pray as the publican Luke 18:13 “*God be merciful to me a sinner.*” We obtain *mercy* if we *show it* to others.

Today we live in a corrupt world of much anger, hate, malice, and cruel acts toward people—but Jesus says ⁹ “*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*”

Anyone who brings discord, conflict, and arguments to others, would *not* be children of the Lord, but be children of the devil—by their own willful choice. It is a serious matter that makes us look within and make an honest assessment of our heart.

Jesus next says Matthew 5:10 “*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*” Persecution is evidence we are living a godly life of faith in God.

For anyone *reading* or *hearing* this great sermon—and will put the words of instruction into

practice, we are the Matthew 5:13 “Salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

Salt prevents corruption as a preservative—thus we can *preserve* the Truth and *prevent* corruption by showing a godly *example* and being a Christ-like *influence* on others.

Followers of Christ are to be a positive influence in the world. As salt is used to *season* foods, we are to *season* God’s Truth and make it attractive. Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” This is the *Message from the Messiah*—we must *read* and *heed* and *do* what He says.

Matthew 5:19 “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Sincerity is a vital ingredient and righteous living a necessity. Matthew 5:20 “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Pharisees and scribes *looked* religious on the *outside* but had no faith in Christ on the *inside*. They would not be able to enter the kingdom in that condition. Outward religion of itself does not assure eternal life, but true righteousness comes from *acting* faith in the Righteous One.

Inner righteousness is having a right *attitude* toward people—trusting the Spirit of God for that scriptural attitude. Matthew 5:22 “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be

in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”

God will enable us to *control* our anger and temper—if we *want* Him to control them. It is important because our eternal destiny is involved. Jesus says that uncontrolled anger has us heading toward the flames. We must recognize it for what it is and ask God help us change.

Jesus tells about having issues with someone or holding resentful attitudes toward them and not dealing with it. Matthew 5:23 “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

Before we pray, we must *think* what our attitudes have been and be willing to *deal* with the matter. If we have had any issues with a person, a fellow member, co-worker, or anyone, we should make things right with them—and *not* put it off to later.

Jesus tells us about how *thoughts* can defile our *conscience*. Matthew 5:27 “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Passive *looking* is as wrong as active *committing*.

Jesus continually gives solid truths on Christian living to a world that moves further and further away from the message of this marvelous sermon. Matthew 5:29 “If your right eye [offend thee or] causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

If anything we *have* and *use* results in our disobeying the instructions in His sermon, we must take drastic action to correct it—like getting rid of reading material; stop online service; quit viewing

videos; change the music we listen to—or just eliminate anything that is harming us spiritually—before they become a *snare*.

If any interest, activity, or entertainment is tempting us to *think* or *decide* in an unscriptural way—and would be moving us away from this Message from the Messiah, then *correct* it, *change* it—and be committed to follow His instructions.

On divorce and remarriage Matthew 5:32 “I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

The Messiah tells us to *not* use abusive language—Matthew 5:34 “But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: ³⁵ Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.”

He says Matthew 5:37 “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil [comes from the Evil One].”

And when speaking or conversing with friends on any level, we must be sure that our words *build* others *up* and do not *tear* them *down*. The apostle says 1 Thessalonians 5:11 “So encourage each other and build each other up [edify, inform, improve], just as you are already doing.” If we *are* doing what we *should* be doing, a pure heart will show mercy toward others—and the merciful Matthew 5:7-8 “Shall see God.”



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