

“Sermon on the Mount – Chapter 1”

Matthew Chapter 5

The Sermon on the Mount is sometimes thought of as Jesus’ “*Declaration of the Kingdom*.” The American Revolutionaries had their *Declaration of Independence*. Karl Marx had his *Communist Manifesto*. With this message, Jesus declared what His Kingdom is all about.

This sermon does not necessarily deal with “*salvation*” as much as it speaks to the standard of living expected for those who call themselves members of Jesus’ kingdom.

If someone wants to know what it means to be a Christian they should be able to find the answer in two ways:

- 1) The Teaching - they should be able to read the Sermon on the Mount
- 2) The Example – they should be able to see our lives and see the same thing.

Mat 5:1

1) The Be-attitudes - Happy You’ll Be vs 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

- Jesus saw the crowds
 - The 12 chosen
 - The people who are genuinely seeking but not devoted to follow
 - Those people who are there for the show.
- Who is on the mountain?
 - It sounds like Jesus was trying to withdraw from the crowds and teach just the 12.
 - The term disciple can be a broader term than just the 12. Gk = *mathanos* means a learner who follows.
 - **Matthew 7:18** “*When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching*” There were crowds listening and amazed.
 - So this sermon was for more than a select few.
- A disciple is willing to follow the teaching where it leads. Even up the steep difficult and wearying slopes of a mountain.

Mat 5:2

He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

Mat 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- “*Blessed*” in the dictionary lists the primary definition as “*to be consecrated or made holy*”. The usage through this passage is a secondary definition. It conveys the idea of being made HAPPY through divine favor bestowed.
- Jesus opens His sermon with HOPE. Hope for happiness in the face of current situations. This sermon will declare the standard of those who live according to the Kingdom of Heaven. He draws His disciples into this standard by meeting their immediate concerns. They need to know it is going to be alright.
- There are 9 situations where kingdom believers can find HOPE. These situations are not a buffet style where the believer chooses one or two. But the believer should have ALL these attitudes.
- **#1 THE POOR (in spirit)**
 - I Read Edersheim, Pink, Shaffer, Bruce; I listen to Zacharias, Piper, Driscoll, Carson, Sproul, Washer. In comparison I feel I am not devoted to Christ. These guys see, and communicate at levels I am blind to.
 - In comparison I am POOR IN SPIRIT. The word for poor here is destitute.
 - It is important to see that Jesus is saying Poor in SPIRIT not just poor.
 - This is the first Blessing because everyone can obtain this.
 - “*A ladder, if it is to be of any use, must have its first step near the ground, or feeble climbers will never be able to mount. It would have been a grievous discouragement to struggling faith if the first blessing had been given to the pure in heart; to that excellence the young beginner makes no claim, while to poverty of spirit he can reach without going beyond his line.*” (Spurgeon)
 - Also, Jesus is NOT saying it is blessed to be poor in spirit. He is saying blessed is the poor in spirit because...
- **THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**
 - What a wonderful assurance. The Kingdom of Heaven is even for us who are not gifted with insights to the deep truths and are unable to communicate them even if we knew them.
 - It is also wonderful that the Kingdom of Heaven cannot be bought. The Poor have nothing and cannot purchase bread much less heaven.

Mat 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- **#2 THE BURDENED**
 - In the Greek this word mourning is the strongest word for deep sorrow.
 - The burden is a burden due to one’s own sin. This mourning is a strong sorrow for one’s own

sin not a casual sorrow.

- In **Luke 18:10-14** describes the difference between a Pharisee and a man who is burdened.
- *"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

- **THEY WILL BE COMFORTED**

- Those who are mourning their sin before God will be comforted by God. A Promise!!
- **2 Corinthians 7:10** *"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

Mat 5:5

"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

- **#3 THE GENTLE (meek)**

- The NASV uses the word gentle. The KJ and NKJ uses meek. The word meek in our language conveys an image of weak. But that is wrong. The word gentle is a better word for our current culture.
- Meekness / Gentleness does not mean that one is incapable of showing strength. But that one's strength is under control. That they do not have to demonstrate their strength to prove who they are or prove what they can do.
- Jesus said of himself in **Matthew 11:29** *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**"*
- Jesus when they put a thorny crown on His head, when they beat Him, when they spat upon Him He could have destroyed them with the whisper of a word. When He encountered a woman caught in adultery He could have been the first to cast the first stone. But he was gentle.
- Meek and Gentle is misunderstood. But the truth is they are Happy because...

- **THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH**

- Being gentle and meek, not exerting the power that you do have leaves the thought that one would be ripped off, taken advantage of.
- God promises is that they will receive their reward.

Mat 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- **#4 THE STARVING (for righteousness)**

- In the audience that Jesus was speaking to they knew what it meant to be hungry. To starve. Our affluent culture misses this lesson for we do not starve in this country today. Oh we have been hungry for our lunch, but to not eaten for days is foreign to us. Most do not even fast anymore.
- But Jesus is speaking about starving for righteousness.
- Paul spoke about this starvation in **Romans 7:18-24** *"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. **For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.** But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. **For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.** Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"*

- **THEY WILL BE SATISFIED**

- Paul continues **Romans 7:25** *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

Mat 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

- **#5 THE MERCIFUL**

- Happy will be those who show mercy. But what about calling sin "sin". What about punishing the wrong doer, how will they ever learn?
- For those who want to always correct, chastise or punish they do not understand the grace we have received.

- **THEY WILL RECEIVE MERCY**

- Just like the law of gravity the law of showing mercy is perfectly constant. If you show mercy you will receive mercy.

- It is like the law of a smile. Give a genuine smile to someone, even a stranger and they cannot help but smile back.
- Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."

Mat 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

- #6 THE PURE (in heart)
 - Up to this point we may have been able to say Amen but here we all say Oh me!
 - Pure in heart is a singleness of sincerity, an undivided devotion. It has a second meaning of honesty and moral cleanliness.
 - Jesus is directing this purity to the heart of an individual not just the outward appearance or to the ceremonially clean.
- THEY WILL SEE GOD
 - The CS Lewis books, "The Chronicles of Narnia" are about children who travel between dimensions and see a world that is parallel to ours. These children as they grow older cease to be able to come to Narnia
 - While those are fiction children through their innocence have been able to see the spiritual realm much easier than adults.
 - The same is true for you and me. When we cry, I haven't heard from God in forever. Woe is me. We need to check our heart. Are we sincere, undivided? Are we really seeking His face? Are you praying? Are you reading His Word (the Bible)?
 - This too is speaking to the promise of God that as He is able to create in us a clean heart He too promises to deliver us into His presence.

Mat 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- #7 THE PEACEMAKERS
 - This is not saying "those who live at peace" It is saying "those who are peacemakers"
 - The image is one who gets between two other people who are fighting. While this may be true it may also be true that we ourselves are one of the two fighting. We need to be quick to live at peace.
 - Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."
 - Another way of being a peacemaker is declaring the gospel to all men that they may find peace with God.
- THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD
 - The world will see that the peacemakers have the character of Christ. They will be identified as the very Sons of God for they have His nature.

Mat 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- #8 THE PERSECUTED (for righteousness sake)
 - Jesus realized that there will be persecution for those who follow His teaching. He is making it very clear that it is persecution for righteousness sake not due to foolishness or a person's own fanaticism.
 - 1 Peter 4:15-16 "Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name."
- THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
 - Just as with the Poor in Spirit who may doubt the HOPE of a future, those who are persecuted for righteousness sake are assured a future in Heaven.

Mat 5:11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Mat 5:12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. .

- #9 THE PERSECUTED (falsely)
 - Jesus lists a second manner of persecution. Being insulted and falsely accused.
 - This isn't about the car you drive or about how you keep you lawn, It is about who you serve as Lord. It is about Jesus.
 - Jesus was falsely accused and so were his followers.
 - They were said to be
 - wine bibbers, - Jesus and disciples spent time with sinners
 - cannibals, - the Lord's Supper
 - traitors, - Jesus promised return to set up His kingdom
 - splitting up families - division came into homes when one member became a Christian

- REJOICE FOR YOU WILL BE REWARDED
 - This word rejoice literally means "Leap for Joy"
 - We, when insulted, falsely accused, and even beaten or put to death for the sake of Christ can rejoice for we are in great company. The Prophets, The Apostles, Church Fathers, Saints and Missionaries throughout the ages, and above all our Lord and Christ, Jesus.

Mat 5:13

2) The Be-effectuals - A Difference You'll Make vs 13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

- One the most amazing lessons can be quickly over looked here. Normally we look at what salt is and does. We look at what light is and what it does. This is important but we need to slow down and look at the way verse 13 and 14 starts They both start the same way.
- Jesus says, "**You Are**" salt and light. Jesus doesn't say you will become or that after much time and schooling you will achieve the status of being salt and light. Jesus is emphatic... YOU ARE! You are already salt and light.
- Colossians 4:6 says "*Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person*"
- Mark 9:50 says "*Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another*"
- The purpose of salt:
 - It creates Thirst Creates
 - It has value Used as a source of currency
 - It seasons Create an enhanced flavor
 - It preserves Prevents moisture to settle on the surface of meat and thus preventing bacteria to grow
 - It purifies Used to clean wounds
- If salt loses its saltiness.
 - It cannot be made salty again and is worthless
 - The only thing to do with it is throw it out
 - Used to be trampled under foot

Mat 5:14

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

Mat 5:15

nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

- Again, Jesus does not open this up for a debate. "YOU ARE" the light of the world.
- Genesis 1: 3 & 4 God created Light. In Genesis 1:14 -19 on the fourth day God created light bearers. The sun the moon and the stars. Light was already created. The sun and moon are simply light bearers.
 - In the same way you and I are the light of the world. We are light bearers.
- Jesus is the Light of the world
 - John 1:1-4 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*"
 - John 3:16-21 "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.*"
- The purpose of Light:
 - It illuminates so things are seen.
 - It exposes things that are hidden.
- Light needs to be shining to be useful. If it is hidden, under a basket it is not shining before men, which is its very purpose.
- He expands the image of the disciple from being a single light to a city, a city on the hill. To the weary traveler in the night the sight of the city gives him a bearing and hope for rest and safety.

- The contrast is striking:
The World is rotting and decaying. - The Christian is the preserving healing flavor the world needs.
The World is sitting in darkness. - The Christian has the light which brings to them salvation.

Mat 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

- Jesus just said "YOU ARE" the light of the world. But here he is asking the disciples to "Let your light shine" You and I can hinder the light from shining.
- Not only that, but Jesus instructs how you should shine. You are to shine your good works so men see them.
 - Your good works are to shine
 - Men are to see them
 - It will cause them to Glorify God.
 - We are not to draw attention to ourselves when we do good works. That God is glorified.

Mat 5:17 **3) The Be-outstandings - Above and Beyond the Law** vs 17-48

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

- I always am amazed that Jesus can speak very clearly and yet some Christians can turn and believe and preach the exact opposite.
 - *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."* yet people will teach a specific date
- Jesus is very clear that THE LAW IS NOT ABOLISHED! Yet people will teach the Old Testament is not longer in effect. They say it is not relevant to the law of grace we live under.
 - **1 Timothy 1:8** "*But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully*" Paul, the guy who some in error say he was against the law, said the law is good, if it is use for it's purpose.
 - **Galatians 3:21-26** "*Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*"
 - Again Paul stated it purpose; It is a tutor to lead us to Christ. Now once under the Lordship of Christ we no longer need the tutor. The law has done its job.
 - But this does not mean we can be lawless. Jesus continues to teach that the life of the believer is above and beyond the law. It fulfills the law and exceeds it.

Mat 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- There is not one iota that will cease to be relevant or important until heaven and earth cease. I have not yet seen heaven and earth cease, therefore the Law is still relevant and important.

Mat 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

- If you teach the commandments are not relevant the consequences are simple. You will be least in the kingdom of heaven.
- If you teach the commandments are relevant and are to be kept you will be great in the kingdom.
- Jesus, using the law sets up this next section. He says that our righteousness must SURPASS the scribes and Pharisees to enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - How do you SURPASS those who are the very people that are the very people who are the keepers of the law and are policing the people to see to it that they are keeping the law.
 - As we will see that those scribes and Pharisees knew the letter of the law but their keeping of it was an external performance, not from the heart deep within. It wasn't part of their very being.

Murder

- Mat 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'
- You have heard - Jesus used this because the teachers of the day spoke by quoting a great teacher (rabbi) thus giving authority to what they were saying.
 - At the end of the Sermon on the Mount the crowds were amazed at the teaching because Jesus taught as one with authority. Because we see the pattern. *You have heard... But I say.*
- Mat 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell. .
- Jesus takes the law of "do not murder" deeper into the heart of the believer.
 - But I say ... if you are angry. If you judge others by calling them names.
- Mat 5:23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- Mat 5:24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.
- Presenting an offering was a system where a sinner, a person with flaws, brings a sacrifice that had no flaws to be a substitutionary death for him.
 - Jesus is saying if you are coming to God for forgiveness, and as you come you remember someone has ought against you. (*you did something wrong*) you need to go and make it right before asking for forgiveness from God.
 - This is not saying we are to research out all our errors and make them right. Just the ones God brings to our remembrance. It is more of a response of obedience.
 - It isn't a case where someone wronged you. But a situation where you need to humble yourself and make it good.
 - Lastly it isn't an excommunication. It is a suspension. The offering is left temporarily and the worshiper is to come back to fulfill his offering.
- Mat 5:25 "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.
- Mat 5:26 "Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.
- Judgment is according to the law. And the law is an exacting judge. It knows the exact penny owed.
 - Jesus teaching to spare the disciple. He is teaching that the law knows every detail where we owe a debt to it. Jesus is teaching us to know the heart of the law and to exceed the law so as to not owe anything to it.

Adultery

- Mat 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';
- Mat 5:28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. .
- Again the law was heard. "*do not commit adultery*"
 - "*The heart of the problem is the heart*" -unknown
 - "*but I say to you*" adultery is in the heart. Your eye looks because you have a problem in your heart.
- Mat 5:29 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
- Mat 5:30 "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.
- Jesus is not teaching that we need to pluck out our eyes or cut off our hands. What he is saying is if you think it is an external problem you would cut out your eye or cut off your hand.
 - BUT IT IS NOT AN EXTERNAL PROBLEM - Our heart needs to be changed.
 - All of our external prohibitions do not remove the problem. We will quickly find that we will still lust if we pluck out our eye.

Divorce

Mat 5:31

"It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE';

Mat 5:32

but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- Based on Deuteronomy 24 states that if a husband found "*uncleanness*" in his wife he could have her put away (give her a certificate of divorce).
 - Shemmai taught it meant only sexual uncleanness
 - Hillel taught that it means anything. Burnt toast.
- Jesus taught that divorce is not acceptable except for "*unchastity*" (unfaithfulness)
- Matthew 19 Jesus will go into more detail on divorce.
- We should not get sidetracked on the point here. Jesus is instructing His disciples that we should exceed the law. Marriage is for life. We cannot be divorce because we are incompatible or have irreconcilable differences.
- Again our heart condition must understand that our commitment to marriage is deeper than our performance.

Vows

Mat 5:33

"Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.'

Mat 5:34

"But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

Mat 5:35

or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

Mat 5:36

"Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Mat 5:37

"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

- You have heard to not make false vows. Vows that end up being broken
- Jesus says don't make vows. He is saying make quality decisions.
- The swearing by heaven or the throne or by Jerusalem is demonstrative and filled with emotion. It is not reasonable or even lawful to swear by things that are not within your ability to swear.
- Jesus is teaching His disciples to make quality decisions. Say Yes or Say no. And do the work up front before you say yes or no. Don't be so quick to answer. Think it through and a quality decision will be easier to keep than an emotional one.

Vengeance

Mat 5:38

"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'

Mat 5:39

"But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Mat 5:40

"If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

Mat 5:41

"Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

Mat 5:42

"Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

- The problem was that the Pharisees taught a personal obligation that if someone knocked out your tooth you need to knock out their tooth. This was never to be. It was written originally for equity of punishment. That punishment shouldn't exceed the crime.
- But Jesus said... if someone wants you shirt, exceed his request, give him your coat too.
- Forcing to go one mile. The Roman Soldiers had the right to demand any civilian to help him and carry a load for a distance. The Jews hated this. This got their attention. This happened all the time.
- Jesus is addressing an attitude here. If forced, go an extra mile.
- Give to him who asks you. Our first response that is in our heart shouldn't be "How do I get out of this" Our first heart consideration should be "How can I do this"
- Again Jesus is dealing with the heart.

Love

Mat 5:43

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Mat 5:44

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

- Mat 5:45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.
- Mat 5:46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"
- Mat 5:47 "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?"
- Jesus raises the standard for all of us. It is easy to love neighbors who are neighborly. We can do good to them.
 - But I say... Do good to those people that give you grief. Do good to those who cause you harm.
 - The Sun and Rain is on both the righteous and unrighteous. He is saying that all on the earth are neighbors.
 - Also if we love our enemies and those who persecute us we would be sons of our father in heaven. Jesus is saying that that is the character of God. We should have His character.
- Mat 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
- If we kept this one chapter we would exceed the law. We would be outstanding. We would be perfect.
 - Jesus says the standard is perfection. You and I are to be perfect. Perfect in your external performance and in your internal motives, thoughts and intents.
 - The standard is not going to move for you or for me. It isn't even going to move for the majority.
 - Jesus is pointing us to the law, to exceed the law. Earlier we saw that the law is a school master or a tutor to bring us to faith in Jesus.
 - Romans 3:21-24 "*But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*".
 - Jesus said our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. He says Be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. This is impossible. Only Jesus himself can do this. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is pointing to Jesus is the only means which salvation is possible.

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