

# THE GOOD LIFE

A Fresh Look At The Sermon On The Mount

# THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE

- **The Sermon on the Mount is the core of all Jesus teaching.**
- **It provides the answer to the 2 big questions of life, “What is a good life?” and “Who is a good person?”**
- **A life built on the foundation of Jesus teaching in the Sermon on the Mount will be both of these.**
- **Preaching summary 4:17, 23 – 5:1**
- **Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God. In his first coming a spiritual Kingdom. 2<sup>nd</sup> coming physical**

# THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE

- **It is about living in the kingdom of God, under the rule of God, Jesus living His life through us.**
- **We enter that kingdom now. A spiritual kingdom that affects the physical!**
- **Matt.5:3-20 Jesus tells us that life, in the life of God, will be the good life**
- **It is a kingdom that is available to all people. The socially or spiritually “grubby” to the social or religious “elite”!**

# The “Good Person”

- **Matt.5:21-7:27** - The second question Jesus deals with in the sermon concerns who is truly a “good person.”
- **Who has the kind of goodness found in God himself, constituting the family likeness between God and his children?**
- **In Matt. 5:20-7:27, Jesus deals with the guts of human existence: raging anger, contempt, hatred, obsessive lust, divorce, verbal manipulation, revenge, slapping, suing, cursing, coercing, and begging. It is the stuff of soap operas and the daily news—and real life.**

# The “Good Person”

- **We want to be good and be known as a good person, and it would be real easy if it weren't for the people around us.**
- **A really good person is one who has found the kingdom and is living in its ways.**
- **He wraps up the description by telling us the standard goodness he has set is the perfection of God. Matt.5:48**
- **Is it any wonder people think it is unattainable**
- **Some think this is for a different “dispensation” or future time.**

# The “Good Person”

- **How are we to understand this passage?**
  1. **We must read it as a sermon**
  2. **We must see that Jesus has one main theme he is developing through-out the message**
  3. **We must place it in the context of the rest of his teaching and purpose**
- **This is not a random collection of “pearls of wisdom”**
- **These are not new “laws”, but illustrations of kingdom living**

# The “Good Person”

- **Jesus gives his overall picture of moral fulfillment and beauty in the kingdom of the heavens. It is one of heartfelt love toward all, including those who abuse and mistreat us. This love does not consist of acts and projects but is a pervasive condition of vision, joy, and love in which we habitually reside. It is a love of the same quality as God’s love (Matt. 5:45–48). We are to be “perfect” or whole as our Father, the one in the heavens, is perfect and whole.**

# **The “Good Person”**

- **Perhaps you are thinking, “I could never do that!”**
- **God specializes in turning riff raff into glittering gold**
- **That is what Tertullian was talking about in his letter to Roman Governors. Lives totally transformed. 1 Cor.6:10**
- **The only way it can happen is through a change in the inner self – Ezk.36:26,27**
- **Will you hear Jesus call: “Repent, for life in the kingdom of the heavens is now one of your options.”**
- **Will you surrender your will, now?**