



# The Talk On The Hill

# The Purpose of The Sermon

No good tree produces bad fruit, nor any bad tree good fruit.... The good person, from the good treasured up in his heart, produces what is good.

**LUKE 6:43–45**

→ The command “Be ye perfect” is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command.      C. S. LEWIS, MERE CHRISTIANITY

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Clarence Bauman opens his study of nineteen radically different and opposed interpretations of it with the statement that it is “an enigma to the modern conscience.” He goes on to say, “The Sermon on the Mount is the most important and most controversial biblical text”.

→ That the manifesto of Jesus, the most important biblical text, is viewed as a controversial enigma, is troubling.

# The Purpose of The Sermon

To understand the Talk on the Hill, it must be seen as a sermon. That is, having one central theme or idea that runs through everything that is said.

- ▶ A “good” person is one who has found the kingdom, their hearts are transformed and are living in its ways
- ▶ That transformation is evidenced by realizing:
  1. Being or doing religious deeds is not enough 5:20
  2. It is the response of the soul that matters 5:21,27
  3. In every circumstance, we Love people 5:40,42,44
  4. The goal is to be like Jesus 5:45,48

# The Purpose of The Sermon

**The Illustrations Jesus used are just that. Illustrations of how the Spirit transformed soul would respond.**

- **When they are viewed as “Laws”, they are seen as impossible when people try to do them in the flesh.**
- **5:28-31 – Gouging out eyes and cutting off limbs does not make a soul righteous**
- **This is the fulfillment of Ezk.36:25-27**
- **This is what is meant in Matt.6:10; 31-33**
  - **The goal is 7:24-25**
  - **Repent! Life in the kingdom is now an option**

# The Order of The Sermon

There is a sequential order to the talk.

- The various scenes and situations that Jesus discusses in his talk are actually stages in a progression toward a life of agape love. They progressively presuppose that we know where our well-being really lies, that we have laid aside anger(21) and obsessive desire(27), that we do not try to mislead people to get our way(33), and so on. Then loving and helping those who hurt us and hate us, for example, will come as a natural progression. Doing so will seem quite right, and we will be able to do so.
- Dealing with anger, contempt, and lust is foundational to dealing with divorce. 5:32

# The Gospel of The Kingdom

- Wrong actions are not the source of our problems
- One must “go beyond the goodness of scribes and Pharisees.” One must surpass humanly contrived religious respectability “if one is to mesh their life with the flow of the kingdom of the heavens” (5:20).
- Jesus is teaching the kingdom of the heavens is available to everyone. Blessed is anyone who lives out the love of THE KING! Matt.5:2-11
- Jesus is calling us beyond religion, beyond doing the “right thing” to a heart transformed and energized by the Holy Spirit and “BEING RIGHT”