



Fulfilled

a study of the Gospel of Matthew

The Beatitudes describe the now and not yet kingdom of Christ through the present reality of His followers, making this upside-down world right side up.



Jesus embodies the law and fulfills it perfectly.
All of Israel's law and prophecy came true in the
person of Jesus.

1. Jesus kept and taught the commandments
in purity and perfection, modeling
real righteousness that was both internal
and external, centered on the love of God
and others, not legalism. Our behaviors
are symptoms of a sick or well heart.

Our affections drive our actions



“You have heard that it was said ... But I tell you ...”

- Murder ... reconcile quickly
- Adultery ... guard your heart and mind
- Divorce ... honor your spouse
- Oaths ... tell the truth and keep promises
- Retaliation ... refuse to retaliate
- Enemies ... be known by love



The command to be perfect is a call to pursue holiness:

- Positional holiness
- Practical holiness

*“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them:
‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’”* Leviticus 19:2



What we do in private surpasses what we do in public.

1. **Giving:** do you seek the approval of people or of God?

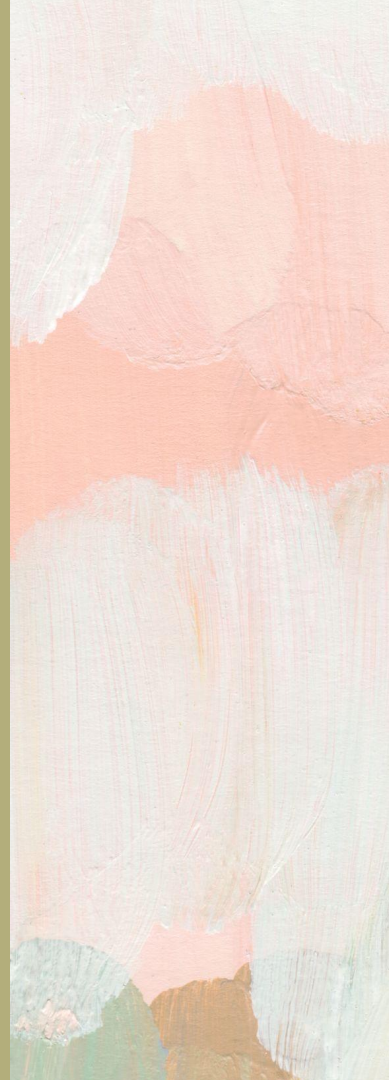
“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10



What we do in private surpasses what we do in public.

2. Praying: is your prayer life more about God and others or you?

- The Lord's prayer is a model more than a mantra. His Name, His Kingdom, His Will.
- Prayer is personal not prescriptive
- Are we listening and talking to God?
- God's design is for us to worship and seek Him daily for practical needs, forgiveness, and protection from temptation.



What we do in private surpasses what we do in public.

3. **Fasting:** Is fasting for you a diet or a spiritual discipline of prayer? Fasting should transform us, not trigger us.

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ... Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.” Isaiah 58:6–8



Seek eternal, not immediate rewards

1. Do you treasure Christ more than people, positions, or possessions?
2. Do you treat others the way you want to be treated, in spite of cost?
3. Do you live for the kingdom of _____ or the kingdom of God?
 - Invite God's Lordship over your life that results in peace, protection, and freedom.



You are worth more than worry.

1. Do you crave God's will and way over the world's, which leads to peace and clarity not strife and confusion.
2. Daily dependence on God protects us from anxiety and ungodly ambition.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7



To judge is to condemn based on the cover,
not character.

To discern is necessary to separate good from
bad fruit.

“Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

John 7:24

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7



Being a citizen of God's kingdom always results in a changed life

1. Jesus is the only way to God the Father and heaven. Seek Him and Him alone for salvation and security
2. Be encouraged: The firm foundation of the Lord will never fail!



Bottom line:

Life in the Kingdom will look different than life in the world, because we rest wholly in the Savior not self.

His Kingdom come, *His will* be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

