

## Week 5

## Matthew series: God revealed

**Matthew 5: The New Commandments (*Deeper with God: part one*)**

Moses came down the Mountain of God and revealed Ten Commandments to the people. In the meantime, the people had gone their own way. In Mathew 5 we have the same thing. The first verses say Jesus when up the mountain. This venture by Jesus is significant. This mountain in Jerusalem is the mount of olives, a holy place of God. It's not just any mountain, it's the mountain. This is not the same mountain of Moses, but the intent is similar. Matthew is saying that the new Moses has arrived. Words are to be spoken. Matthew is telling his readers that if you follow Moses words, then here (from Jesus) are some more words from God. Matthew is also declaring that the people in Jesus day had gone the wrong way. Emanuel has arrived (God is with us). What are your thoughts on the Ten commandments? Do you know them?

Matthew 5:1 **"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him."**

Exodus 3:29 **"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD."**

---



---



---



---

There are three chapters in Mathew called the sermon on the mount (mountain, or Olivet discourse). This is the new Ten commandments. Ok, there are not just ten but you get the point. Jesus is establishing his kingdom one step at a time. The first was to be baptized like us. The second was to prove he could not be tempted. The third is a new set of rules. Let's be clear here, these are not rules to replace the old ones. So many people have said they follow the old or the new rules. Jesus says in 5:17 *I have not come to abolish the laws but to fulfill them*. These new rules are not really commands, laws, or rules but a deeper way to knowing the God in heaven. Remember Jesus came not to reveal himself but to reveal the Christ. There is a difference. How do you perceive Jesus? Be honest here.

Matthew 5:17 **"I have not come to abolish the laws but to fulfill them."**

Exodus 3:28 **"Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments."**

---



---

Matthew 5 is a ridiculous chapter. It is impossible to review it in a few simple paragraphs. My goal in this study of Matthew is to be a reporter. I will help you see what Matthew sees through his words. Who is this Jesus he is trying to portray? What is the message? A good reporter uses context, setting, and motive. Matthew is really taking his time meticulously setting up Jesus ministry. Matthew wants us to see that Jesus is the new Moses. Jesus is the Christ through prophesy. Jesus is a king in a new kingdom. In any business or group there are a set of documents. These documents tell anyone who they are and what they stand for. The beatitudes of Jesus and his further teachings in this chapter are just that. This is the person of the Christ that embodies all Jesus and God are.

The first set of insights by Jesus are called the beatitudes. They begin with “blessed are.” The second set of teachings tell us something special. We are not to just to live our lives as religious people. Jesus clearly came to dispute that notion. Beginning at verse 13, Jesus says we are salt and light. Those two things change everything they touch. They are the opposite of darkness and rot. Jesus ministry is not a new cult, religion, or way. Jesus goes out of his way beginning in verse 17 to dispel that. Christianity is the continuation of what God already started. That is why Matthew built a case for this through prophesy, lineage, and the covenants with his patriarchs. Jesus is proclaiming God’s way is nothing they have ever experienced before. Yet, it’s still the God of Old continuing his plan.

In our historical introduction to the Bible I painfully spent 13 weeks walking you through some highlights of Gods journey with men and women. I have in no way done it justice. However, I hope you can see just a little of what God has been trying to accomplish. Matthew is saying that Jesus is the next step in accomplishing his purpose for this creation. Matthew 5 is the next step in that process. Jesus is here to set things in motion. That motion is 12 Jewish men. They are being taught the right way to think and live in God’s world. In reading Matthew, we too, are being taught. The first teachings are found here in Matthew 5. Jesus is showing us how God’s people should interact with people. One small note is the term “you have heard.” That is all through this chapter. Jesus is making it clear that the people have had bad teaching. He has come to set things straight.

**Matthew 5:15 “Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”**

**Exodus 25:37 “Then you shall make its lamps seven in number; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it.”**

Read Matthew 5-7 but read 5 several times. Extra reading if you want Ps 37:11, Isa 55:1, Ps 24:4, Deut 23:21-23, Deut 15:7, Lev 19:18

1. The first twelve verses of this chapter are called the beatitudes. A new way of living towards others. It begins with who God respects. Blessed be the meek. God is telling people that the humble, the honest, and the kind will inherit the earth. What Matthew and Jesus are pointing out is that the religious rulers of the day are not representing God. They are representing men. In my mind this is more of a declaration by Jesus that things are about to change. Before the law

of Moses there was no law. Jesus is now taking that law and putting teeth to it. I suppose holding the religious feet to the fire.

**Matthew 5:20 "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."**

**Leviticus 20:2 "You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."**

2. Verses 13-20 are like the fulcrum on a teeter totter. One side is what God is like and what he expects to enter heaven. The other side is a breaking of the religious code that was crushing people. The Christ or Messiah was expected to rule. He would be the one God establishes on earth. Why did the rulers expect a military ruler? You could say because of prophesy. Yet Matthew points out that prophesy pointed to a prince of peace too. A loving God. The religious rulers treated the law of Moses like a stick to be wielded. Jesus says they missed the point. We are to live by the spirit of the law. Be Christ like and God like. Is it possible Jesus came to overcome the yoke of religious oppression more than Roman oppression?

**Matthew 9:13 says "I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Think about that verse in relation to Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."**

3. If you noticed, the next few teachings cover the hot topics of the day. In our day, they would be gay rights, racism, and truth. In Jesus day, there are two things: what is said and not said. Those issues in our day were not addressed directly here: why? The Pharisees only wanted to attack what they thought was unholy. They only wanted to attack what they hated. It was about anything that made them look holy. Gay sex, racism, and truth were common in that day. It was part of Roman life. Jesus uses these issues such as marriage, oaths, and retaliation because the rulers said *don't live that way*, but they were secretly doing it themselves. Jesus ministry was to bust down the walls the religious rulers had built up against God and the common person. In a way, Jesus was saying that heaven was for everyone and the authorities hated that.

**Matthew 5: 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer."**

**Exodus 6:7 "I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."**

4. Matthew loves to mirror his thoughts throughout his book. So, if God says we should act this way then in another part of Matthew we see Jesus acting this way. Matthew begins his chapter 5 with a declaration of who God is towards people. He loves the poor, meek, and pure of heart. Verses 43 through 48 are an answer to that way of thinking: love your enemies. If you think about it, the beatitudes say God loves those who are a certain way. God is challenging us beginning in verse 43 to put that to shoe leather. We know how to hate enemies. How do you love them? We love them because of one principle: God loves all, not just a few like the religious

leaders did. In everything, Christianity begins and ends with loving those who don't deserve love: even enemies. Perfect love is when you are loved because God will love you regardless of your sin.

**Matthew 5:44-5 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."**

**Matthew 26:28 "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."**

### **What does it mean?**

I cannot repeat this enough: being Christian is more than being holy. As I sit here, that is ringing truer every day. Just stop and read Matthew again to this point. He comes to earth through a virgin. The lineage is part gentile. The area he comes from is considered horrible. His friends are the dregs of society from prostitutes to fishermen. Not favorites in those days. He goes to parties and seems to break several religious laws. Jesus is holy and clean, but he is within the mess of this world. He looks dirty.

Speaking the sermon on the mount means that Jesus is more than just authority. It also means Jesus has lived in our messy lives. He knows how things work. We look at the opposite sex and fantasize. We cheat and lie some times. I'm not so sure Jesus is asking us to stop doing those things. That might be near impossible because it's our nature as fallen human creatures. They say the Ten commandments exposed sin. Ten simple rules and we can't keep them. The religion of the day wanted people to say they keep the rules put in place. To look holy. Yet, Jesus knew the truth. We can't. I feel Jesus pointed to try rather than lie.

So, Jesus sits on this mountain looking like Moses. Tell us how to live Jesus. Yet, Jesus does the worst thing to our hearts. He exposes us. Most of these teachings go inside to our private lives. Murder and worship are outward things. What we think and feel are inward things. Jesus hammers on humbleness, anger, oaths that are heart issues. Matthew is going out of his way to paint Jesus in a non-religious way. It's not about outward and inward appearance that matters to God. They wanted a deliverer from Roman oppression. I think Jesus came to deliver us from ourselves.

**Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

**Genesis 18:26 "The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."**