“You Have Heard It Said . . . But I Say”

Review

- K of God is Central Message from Gen to Rev
- Prophets: Literal Kingdom on this earth
- Prophets gave a snapshot of the power, glory, and overwhelming might of this Kingdom
- That righteousness, justice, peace implemented by Messiah, Son of Abraham, Son of David
- John the Baptist: Forerunner for the Messiah
- Prepare the way of the Lord: Matthew 3:2
- Calls people of God to repent, because righteousness is required to enter this Kingdom
- Jesus: Same message: Matthew 4:17; with miracles
- Great anticipation by God’s people
- Forerunner has come; Messiah is in their midst
- Expectation: The Kingdom is come!
- Yet, where is the Kingdom?
- Where is the crushing of unjust K’s and rulers?
- Where is the establishment of righteousness?
- Why does Herod and Rome Still Rule?
- Jesus introduces the “Mysteries of the Kingdom”
- Truths previously not revealed to any of prophets
- While the prophets depicted the nature and character of the kingdom, they did not tell how it would be inaugurated
- In contrast to the great power and might that will characterize Kingdom in future, it has now begun:
  - Unobtrusively, as a farmer sowing seed
  - Insignificantly, as a tiny mustard seed
  - Through Son of David born in a lowly manger
- However Kingdom is not to be despised or ignored
  - It is to be seized with great zeal!
- The promised Messiah has come and inaugurated in an unexpected manner the prophesied Kingdom
- But God's demand remains the same. Only ones allowed to inherit this Kingdom after death and their resurrection are righteous individuals.

- **How Do I Enter this Kingdom?**
- So, what kind of righteousness is required to enter this Kingdom?
  - That is the purpose of the “Sermon on the Mount”
  - The thematic statement for Sermon: Matt 5:17-20
  - Righteousness based on law & prophets
  - Superior to Scribes, Pharisees, pastors, profs, etc
  - “You have heard” versus “I say to you”
  - What is the righteousness required?

- Review Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-16
- Anger: Matthew 5:21-24
- Adultery and Divorce: Matthew 5:27-32
- Greed: Matthew 6:19-24
- Judging: Matthew 7:1-5
- Perfection: Matthew 6:48

- **Delivered from the Power of Sin**
- At this point in the sermon, Jesus’s disciples are thinking what you and I are thinking
- I am not righteous!
  - I have been angry with so many; committed adultery mentally or physically; I have lied; I have been hateful; I have hated my enemies; I have improperly judged others
  - So, I will never enter into the Kingdom
  - The Good News is that God's people can be delivered from the power of sin, so they can enter the Kingdom of God; and this is the way.
  - Whenever I am confronted with my sin, I need to confess it for it is my confessed sin that G forgives
  - 1 John 1:9
  - Because I recognize my attitude or actions were not appropriate for God's Kingdom, I turn away from it--I stop it. This is repentance.
  - Repentance is NOT saying I will not do it again
  - Repentance is NOT doing the sin again.
  - What the Scriptures say what is repentance probably is different than what we might have been told what repentance is
  - If you are like me, then you may be thinking, “What happens if I do not confess my sin?”
  - There is not one place in the Scriptures that states we will be forgiven.
  - On the contrary, we will not be forgiven.
  - Let's take the example of forgiveness.
  - What happens if I do not forgive others when they have done me wrong? Matthew 6:14-15.
  - Is it wrong for me not to forgive others? Yes, it is terribly wrong.
  - What happens if I continue not to forgive others instead of repenting from it?
  - Then God will not forgive me and I will not enter into the Kingdom

- **Anger:** Matthew 5:21-24
- **Adultery and Divorce:** Matthew 5:27-32
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Only One Gospel Leads to Life

- Is it so important for me to enter into God's righteous Kingdom?
- Jesus offered only two paths for His people
- Read Matthew 7:13-23
  - As a reminder, who is Jesus speaking these words?
  - Jesus says to His people, “There is broad way that leads to destruction”
  - The unrighteous; in the context:
    - Those not living out the Beatitudes
    - The angry, the adulterers, the liars, the hateful, the greedy, those improperly judging
  - Why? They have not repented of their sins
  - However, there is another way
  - It is through a narrow gate; that way leads to life
  - Who are on that way?
  - The righteous!
    - They have believed that JC is the Messiah; that the prophesied K has been inaugurated; by faith, they have repented of their sins!
  - Salvation is the power of God whereby He enables me to stop sinning, and thereby enter the K of God
  - That is good news!
    - It is not good news that God provided a Savior FROM sin, yet His people REMAIN in their sins
  - The good news is that we have been delivered from the power of sin so we may live righteous life
  - God’s people that believe this on the narrow road
  - At their resurrection, they will inherit the blessings of the K of God
  - God’s people that do not believe this: at their resurrection, they will face judgement

False Teachers, False Gospels

- Note that Jesus warns disciples about false teachers
- Read Matthew 7:15-20
  - There have always been false teachers proclaiming false “gospels”
  - Their lives and their messages don’t lead God’s people in the way of righteousness
  - Their counterfeit “gospels” are not good news
  - In fact, their false teaching leads people to destruction
  - “I have been declared righteous”
    - Scriptures: we must be righteous
  - “God loves me in spite of my sin”
    - Scriptures: “May it never be!”
  - “Will you spend eternity in Heaven?”
    - Scriptures: “Will you enter the Kingdom”
  - “Heaven when you die”
    - Scriptures: “Death, Resurrection, Judgment Seat of Christ”

Will of the Father

- In response to these false teachers, Jesus makes it clear that there is only one option for His people
- Read Matthew 7:21-23
  - There is only one way to enter the K of God
  - Doing the will of the Father: context: righteousness
  - Believing Jesus to be the Messiah; believing His kingdom has been inaugurated
  - Therefore, I do the will of the Father
  - I repent of sin of my sin.
  - I do the good; I avoid the evil.
  - Therefore, I become righteous by the power of God
  - I enter the Kingdom
  - The broad way may be filled with lots of “Christian activity”
  - People doing many things in “Jesus name”
  - God who sees all, see lawlessness instead of righteousness
  - At their resurrection, will not inherit the Kingdom
  - There is only one Gospel that leads to life
  - There is no Plan B, C, or D

Wise or Foolish?

- Read Matthew 7:21-28
  - The wise man: hears and acts
  - The foolish: hear and don’t act
  - Jesus said: Narrow way, few find it
  - Each succeeding generation, fewer will find it
  - I pray that there will be some here today who are the few