

The "Teaching on the Mount"

Jesus Appoints the Twelve Apostles MK 3.13-19 (Parallel Text: LK 6.12-16)

13 ^LOne of those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and he continued in prayer for the entire night. And when it became day, ^Mhe went up on the mountainside and called ^Lhis disciples—^Mthose he wanted—and they came to him. 14 And he chose twelve from among them and appointed his twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach, 15 and to have the authority to drive out demons.

16 The names of the twelve he appointed are Simon, whom he named Peter; 17 James, son of Zebedee; James' brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"); 18 Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon who was called "the Zealot"; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him, ^La traitor.

The Core Attitudes of a Jesus Follower MT 5.1-12 (Parallel Text: LK 6.17-26)

^LJesus went down with the apostles and stood on a level place on the mountain.

1 ^{MT}Now, when Jesus saw the crowd ^Lof his disciples and the great multitudes of people, ^{MT}he sat down. ^LThey came from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people were all trying to touch him because power was coming from him and healing them all.

^{MT}His disciples came to him, 2 and ^Llooking at his disciples, ^{MT}he was teaching them, saying,

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ^LBut woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

4 ^{MT}"Blessed are those who mourn ^Land weep now, ^{MT}for they will be comforted, and ^Llaugh. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

5 ^{MT}"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger ^Lnow ^{MT}and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ^LWoe to you who are full now, for you will hunger.

7 ^{MT}"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called 'children of God.'

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ^LWoe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is what their fathers did to the false prophets.

11 ^{MT}"Blessed are you when people ^Lhate you, and when they exclude, and ^{MT}insult you, and persecute you, ^Ltrash your name as evil, ^{MT}and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me, ^Lthe son of man. 12 ^{MT}I command you all to continually rejoice in that day and you all must make yourselves glad—^Lleap for joy—

^{MT}because great is your reward in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.”

Disciples Live in Jesus' Righteousness MT 5.13-20

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and constantly trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people keep a lamp burning and then set it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it keeps shining light upon everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, I command you to let your light shine before others, in such a way that they see your good deeds, and glorify your Father in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 “For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, the smallest letter or the least stroke of a pen will never, ever disappear from the Law, until everything has been fulfilled.

19 “Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Six Examples: The Way Love More than Fulfills the Old Covenant Commands

Love Deals Righteously with Anger and Broken Relationships MT 5. 21-48 (Parallel Text: LK 6.27-30, 32-36)

21 (Example One) “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,’ (Exodus 20.13) and ‘anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’

22 “But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘You idiot!’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fires of hell.

23 “Therefore, if you are in the process of offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother or sister is holding something against you, 24 I command you to leave your gift right there in front of the altar. I command that you make the effort to go and try to be reconciled to them and then come and finish offering your gift.

25 “I command you to think about it like this: You must settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you truthfully that you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

Love Deals Righteously with Sexuality, Marriage, and Promise Keeping MT 5.27-37

27 (Example Two) “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ (Ex. 20.14)

28 "But I myself tell you that anyone who continues to look at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 "If your right eye is causing you to stumble, I command you to gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, I command you to cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 (Example Three) "You have heard, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' (Duet. 24.1) 32 But I myself tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman is committing adultery.

33 (Example Four) "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill the oaths you have made to the Lord.' (Duet. 23.21) 34 But I myself command you not to swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.

37 "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

Unconditional Love is the Basis of True Righteousness MT 5.38-48 (Parallel Texts: LK 6.27-30, 32-36)

38 (Example Five) "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' (Ex. 21.24) 39 But I myself command you -- do not resist an evil person. If anyone is slapping you on the right cheek, I command you to turn the other cheek to him also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, I command you to give up your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, I command you to continue going with him for two miles.

42 "I command you to give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ^LIf anyone takes what belongs to you, I command you not to take it back from him. I command you to lend to them without expecting anything back. Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

43 (Example Six) ^{MT}"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor' (Lev. 19.18) and 'Hate your enemy.' (Ref. Duet. 23.6) 44 But I myself command you to continue loving your enemies; ^Lcontinue doing good to those who hate you; I command you to continue blessing those who curse you, ^{MT}continue praying for those who persecute you ^Land mistreat you 45 ^{MT}so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

^L"I command you to be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful. Then, your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

46 ^{MT}"If you love those who love you, ^Lwhat credit is that to you? ^{MT}What reward will you get? ^LEven sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? ^{MT}Are not even the ^Lsinners and ^{MT}tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Therefore, I command you to be complete in love ^Land mercy, ^{MT}just as your heavenly Father is complete in love ^Land mercy."

Love For God Motivates Giving and Fasting in Secret MT 6.1-4, 16-18

The Principle: 1 "I command you to continue to pay careful attention that you do not practice your righteousness in front of others in order to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

The Principle Applied to Giving: 2 "So when you are giving to the needy, I command you not to announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites are doing in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

3 "But when you give to the needy, I command you not to let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who is seeing what is done in secret, will reward you.

The Principle Applied to Fasting: 16 "When you are fasting, I command you not to look gloomy as the hypocrites do, for they deliberately put their misery on their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

17 "But when you fast, I command you to keep oil on your head and wash your face 18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who is seeing what is done in secret, will reward you."

Love for God Motivates Private Prayer
MT 6.1-4, 16-18 (Repeated Text: LK 11.2-4)

5 "And when you pray, I command you not to be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

6 "But when you pray, I command you to go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then, your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, I command you not to continue babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 I command you not to be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 "When you pray, I command you to continue to make these requests:

'Our Father in heaven,
cause your name to be honored as holy,
10 cause your sovereign reign
to be fully acknowledged by all people,
cause your will to be done on earth
with the same attitude that characterizes heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily allotment of bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And do not lead into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'

14 "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Love for God Requires Unrivaled Loyalty to Him Alone

MT 6.19-24

19 "I command you not to store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness?

24 "It's impossible to serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and will despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Love for God Means Living under His Control Alone

MT 6.25-34

25 "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they are? 27 Can any one of you add a single hour to your life by worrying about it?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not also clothe you? Oh you of little faith!

31 "So I command you to stop worrying, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But I command you to constantly seek first to surrender yourselves to his reign in you, and his righteousness, and all these other things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Love for God Means Judging Ourselves, Not Others

MT 7.1-6 (Parallel Text: LK 6.37-42)

1 "I command you to stop judging, so that you ^Lwill be never, ever, be judged. I command you likewise to stop condemning, so that you will never, ever, be condemned. I command you to continue forgiving, and you will be forgiven. I command you to continue giving, and it will be given to you, in full measure, pressed down to the rim, with all the excess shaken off together and overflowing into your own lap. 2 ^{MT}For in the same way you judge others, you too will be judged, and with the same standard of measure that you are measuring, it will be measured back to you."

^LThen he told them this illustration. "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will both of them not fall down into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who has been completely, permanently trained will be like his teacher.

3 ^{MT}"Why, then, are you looking at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and paying no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when ^Lall the time you are failing to see ^{MT}the plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, I command you to first take the

plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

6 "I command you not to give what is sacred to dogs; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces."

Love for God Means Persisting in Prayer
MT 7.7-12 (Parallel Text: LK 6.31; 11.5-13))

7 "I command you to continue asking, and it will be given to you; likewise, continue seeking and you will find; continue knocking and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who continues to ask, receives; the one who continues to seek, finds; and to the one who continues to knock, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you will give your son a stone if he asks you for bread? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will you give him a snake?

11 "Since you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who continue asking him?

12 "So, in everything, I command you to continue behaving toward others in the same way you are wanting them to do for you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Jesus Warns about Two Different Paths, with Different Outcomes
MT 7.13-23 (Parallel Text: LK 6.43-46)

13 "I command you to enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that is leading to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow is the road that is leading to life and only a few find it.

15 "I command you to watch continually for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruit.

^L"Each tree is known by its own fruit. ^{MT}Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

^L"The good man brings good things out of the good stored in his heart, and the evil man brings forth evil things out of the evil stored in his heart. For the mouth speaks out of the overflow of what is in the heart.

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not obey what I say? 21 ^{MT}Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who is doing the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons, and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then, I will speak out to them, 'I never knew you. Stay away from me, you evildoers!'"

The Sure Foundation of Jesus' Authoritative Word
MT 7.24-29 (Parallel Text: LK 6.47-49)

24 "Therefore ^LI will show you what the person is like who comes to me, ^{MT}continues hearing these words of

mine, and actually makes a practice of doing them. He is like a wise man who ^Ldug down deep and ^{MT}built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the rivers rose, the winds blew and beat against that house, ^Land when the flood came, the torrent struck the house but could not shake it, ^{MT}and it did not fall because its foundation had been firmly set on the rock.

26 "But everyone who is hearing these words of mine and does not continue to put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand, ^Lon the bare ground without a foundation. 27 ^{MT}The rain came down, the rivers rose, the winds blew and beat against that house, and ^Lwhen the torrent struck, that house ^{MT}collapsed with a great crash, ^Land its destruction was complete."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were in continual amazement at his teaching 29 because he was teaching with authority, and not as their teachers of the law had taught.