

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Matthew 7:28-29

The Sermon on the Mount and the Person of Christ

I. Contemporary Approaches to the Sermon

"The Jesus of dogma I do not understand,' a Hindu professor once said to Stanley Jones, 'But the Jesus of the Sermon on the Mount and the cross I love and am drawn to.' Similarly, a Muslim Sufi teacher told him that when he read the Sermon on the Mount he could not keep back the tears."

- John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, 212.

"Men say that [the Sermon on the Mount] contains no theology; in reality it contains theology of the most stupendous kind. In particular, it contains the loftiest possible presentation of Jesus' own Person."

- J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*,

II. Who Is This Man?

"And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." (Matt 7:28-29)

1. To whom was the Sermon directed originally (5:1)? Who was amazed at the teaching of Christ?
2. How was Jesus "not as their scribes" (v. 29)? What about Old Testament prophets?

"For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.' But you were unwilling..." (Is 30:15)

3. BONUS QUESTION: If Scripture is the Word of Christ, what is the ultimate grounds upon which we should trust in the Bible?

The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it as the Word of God (WCF 1:4)

4. What point is Jesus making about Himself in each of the following statements?

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matt 5:43-44)

"But I say to you..." (Matt 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44)

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock... And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand." (Matt 7:24, 26)

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matt 5:11-12)

"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matt 7:22-23)

5. How would you explain to someone that the Golden Rule can really only be obeyed by a Christian?

"Let us not deceive ourselves. A Jewish teacher of the first century can never satisfy the longing of our souls. Clothe Him with all the art of modern research, throw upon Him the warm, deceptive calcium-light of modern sentimentality; and despite it all, common sense will come to its rights again, and for our brief hour of self-deception—as though we had been with Jesus—will wreak upon us the revenge of hopeless disillusionment."

*- J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and**

6. In which areas of the Sermon on the Mount do you need to recognize the sovereign Lordship of the Preacher?

III. Encouraging Principles to Remember While Studying the S.O.M. (from Martyn Lloyd-Jones' *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*)

- A. The power that makes us right with God is power that enables us to live for God.

"The Lord Jesus Christ died to enable us to live the Sermon on the Mount."

- B. Being characterized by the S.O.M. is not natural. It *must* come from God—and this is encouraging!

"Nothing shows me the absolute need of the new birth, and of the Holy Spirit and His work within, so much as the Sermon on the Mount. These Beatitudes crush me to the ground."

- C. There is blessing to be found in obeying the Sermon on the Mount.

"The more we live and try to practice this Sermon on the Mount, the more shall we experience blessing."

- D. Living out the Sermon on the Mount is the best means of evangelism.

"The world today is looking for, and desperately needs, true Christians. I am never tired of saying that what the Church needs to do is not to organize evangelistic campaigns to attract outside people, but to begin herself to live the Christian life. If she did that, men and women would be crowding into our buildings."

