

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021. **Topic: Foundation for the Kingdom**

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE EARLY MINISTRY OF JESUS WITH FOCUS ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**Part A**

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE EARLY MINISTRY OF JESUS**

**Texts: Matt 4:12-17, 23-25, Isaiah 40:3-5, John 1:23**

**INTRODUCTION**: The Bible Study have been divided into two parts which are part A and part B. Part A is going to examine the takeoff or the beginning and the early part of the ministry of Jesus as well as a bit mention of the ministry of John the Baptist and the success of them both. Part B will dwell on the Sermon on the Mount starting with the beatitudes. This is why we will need to read a portion of Matthew chapter 4 although the focus of the BS actually starts from Matthew Chapter 5.

I cannot tell for now how deep into the gospel we will go but we will initially focus on Matthew 5, 6 and part of chapter 7 where we have the message of the Sermon on the Mount.

As soon as John the Baptist departed the scene, Jesus stepped in with a continuation of the message of John the Baptist which was “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Although John had a unique ministry, he never veered off the purpose of his calling which was to prepare the way as a forerunner of Jesus. Outstanding miracles trailed His ministry and multitudes followed Him.

Jesus used a two-dimensional approach to the gospel. He met the needs of the people and then taught them the message of eternal life. Thirdly Jesus lived by example.

Preamble questions:

The next all-important question is therefore, what is the need of the people? **Is it food, healing desire for righteousness or what?**

**Why did the ministry of Jesus draw the multitude?** **Matt 4:25**. Maybe because He had what the people wanted? Just like any business when you have what the people need, the crowd will come and ask for it. Or could it be that He was simply doing what His Father asked him to do? I say this because it easy to think that Jesus had a crowd because He was healing the people of their diseases but John the Baptist did not perform any miracle but he had the same crowd as Jesus including the attention of kings like King Herod. John the Baptist was not attractive in person, in dressing and he was not attractive in words. He had no social skills or interactions as he lived in an odd place but he had the crowd so why? **Matt 3: 1-9.** My take on getting the multitude may have to do with the mode of the moment and the assignment given to you by God. You will notice that Jesus did not allow the mood to cool down. He went straight in as soon as John the Baptist was out of the scene**.** When you study the interval between Elisha, Elijah, Malachi and John the Baptist, you will realize the importance of John the Baptist and the intelligence of God. The period between Elisha, Elijah, Malachi and John the Baptist was a quiet moment in the life of Israel. It may have been very challenging for Jesus if he had just come into the scene without a forerunner.

**Did everyone come to Jesus?** Not everyone came to Jesus

**Why did everyone not come?** Everyone did not come to Jesus because they did not acknowledge their needs and also perhaps some saw Him as a fraud even though He was the Son of God.

Was it because He did not have solutions to their problems and because they had no challenges?

**Will everyone come to church of an anointed servant of God?** Everyone will not come to church no matter how anointed the minister is. You have to stand in the gap using the message you were given. John the Baptist never point attention to himself. He always made it clear that the attention should shift from him to the Messiah and that whatever he was doing was not about him. (**Matt 3:11-15, John 1:29-37)**. Some will operate with the anointing like John the Baptist’s and some will operate like Jesus but God will bring the people. **(I Cor 3:6-8)** Anyhow as a minister, you must have what the people need and focus on your assignment otherwise the ministry will fail. It may be food, healings and righteousness like Jesus or it may be pure righteousness or pointing the people to the Messiah like John the Baptist but you must come to the people with what the master has asked you to give to them. As a minister, do not preach with a borrowed, stolen or copied anointing because it will ultimately fail. Some ministers want to beg people to come by giving them carrots when that was not the mission which the Lord assigned to them. That may explain why some ministries came forth with what looked like real fire and failed as soon as the focal point passed on. It could be because it was running on a wrong assignment by building it around himself or herself instead of operating maybe as a pointer or a forerunner.

Part B.

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (The Principle of the Kingdom)**

**The Beatitudes: Matt 4:23-25, 5: 1-12, Matt 7:24-29**

It must be noted that this was Jesus’ foundational message. The sermon on the mount covered the present and the future. It is the foundation upon which the ministry of Jesus will stand. He used that message to introduce His ministry to Israel. In his introduction, He appears to be saying to them that although He was bringing a different dimension into their lives via His teaching, He was going to uphold the foundations of the prophet. A way of authenticating the message of the prophets and denouncing the manipulations of the message of the prophets by the people. **Matt 5:17.** It was an eye-opening and a refreshing dimension hence all that heard him were filled with awe and admiration. **Matt 7:28-29**

Who was the Sermon on the Mount directed to? Matt 5: 1. Believers.

Why did Jesus withdraw from the multitude and then took time to teach this all important message to his disciples? The principles of the kingdom is not meant for everyone.

Why did the multitude not follow him to the mountain? Maybe because it was not miracles time. John 6:26. Many maybe in church because they have misinterpreted the church for show time

Where will you rather be? Among the multitudes or among the disciples?

Beatitude meaning blessing. List the people to who these blessing will come to

1. The Poor in spirit
2. Those who mourn
3. The meek
4. Those who thirst and thirst for righteousness.
5. The Merciful
6. The pure in heart
7. The peacemakers
8. Those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.
9. Those who are reviles and accused falsely for His sake.
10. **The Poor in spirit:** The poor in spirit are those who has deliberately and by discipline chosen to depend on God for everything as a result of their spiritual poverty. They acknowledge their helplessness and rely on the omnipotence of God. By virtue of their poverty in spirit, they are dependent on the spiritual wealth of the almighty God. For these kinds of people, the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
11. **Those who mourn**: This does not refer to those who mourn as a result of challenges or misfortune. It has to do with the hurt that is experienced as a result of the godlessness and sin of the world. This is the pain experienced when you think of the doom that awaits those that have rejected the savior and the doom that awaits them that refuses the mercy of God. This situation should drive us to preach the gospel. II Cor 5:11. These people will be comforted.
12. **The meek**: These are people who by virtue of their relationship with Christ have dropped their earthly nature and acquired the meek nature of God. **Matt 11:29-30, Phil 3:8, Jer 9:23-24**. Meekness implies appreciation of one’s true position not pretentious appreciation. The meek character may actually be a tough personality but due to his or her relationship with Jesus Christ he engages his meek spirit for the kingdom’s sake. For such, Jesus says they will inherit the earth. This appears to literarily refer to the one thousand years of peace of prosperity with Christ. An example of humility, meekness and lowliness is expressed by John the Baptist in **John 1:26-27**.
13. **Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness’ sake:** This appears easy to understand. These are people with a passion for righteousness in their lives and the lives of others. **Phil 3:10-14**. They strive to uphold integrity, justice, practical holiness in the assembly of God. The Lord says they will be filled. They will see abundance of righteousness in the coming kingdom.
14. **The merciful shall obtain mercy**: To be merciful means to be actively compassionate. In one sense it means to withhold punishment from offenders who deserve to be punished. It could also mean helping others who cannot help themselves. This mercy is not related to the mercy obtained from God as a result of salvation. It talks more about mercy which is related to works. **I Cor 3:12-15**. The merciful shall obtain mercy
15. **The pure in heart shall see God**. A pure person is one whose motives are unmixed. The ones with a holy heart and conscience clean. Since conscience is a function of what you know, you must be close to the word of God so you will not be misled. **Psalm 119:11, 105, Prov 4:23**. They shall see God now as they relate and fellowship with him and they shall see God in eternity. **Heb 12:14.**  If we are therefore preparing see God, we must take the word of God above the words and quotes of this world, above the words of motivation speakers and above the words activists.
16. **The peacemaker shall be called the sons of God**. These are not people with natural peaceful disposition or just those who love peace but those who actively wants to bring about a peaceful atmosphere. It is divine to want to see peace come to pass in issues. Simply being a peace maker does not make you the son of God. **John 1:12.** There is a disposition of peace that man cannot understand that every believer should demonstrate**. Heb 12:14.** This type of peace transcends human understanding. It is type of peace that men cannot comprehend**. Phil 4:7.** Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane would have demonstrated the power He wields but He refused to do so**.** This is the spirit that Stephen demonstrated when he was being stoned. He could still say father forgive them**. Acts 7 :60.**
17. **Persecuted for righteousness’ sake**. To them are promised the kingdom of heaven. Do not subject yourself to persecution when you do not need to. If it is avoidable, by all means avoid it. Their integrity and tenacity to God, could sometime generate hostility towards you as a believer. The challenge with a righteous person is that it makes those living in iniquity too obvious so he or she is easily hated so as to create a reasonable distance so the works of darkness are not revealed. The disciples experienced this, Peter was thrown in jail, Stephen was stoned to death, Paul was jailed and eventually beheaded etc. for no crime of theirs. Why do you think you will not be persecuted?
18. **Those who are accused falsely for Christ’s sake:** Jesus says we should rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is our reward in heaven. He says this is a not a new phenomenon. We should see this as a privilege that should cause joy.

What is the repercussion of keeping these words? **Matt 7: 24**. A wise man, who built his house upon the rock.

How do you know that person is not keeping these words of Jesus?

And if you don’t what does the bible liken you to? A foolish man

Give example of the rain falling, the floods coming and the wind blowing as specified in **Matt 7:25**

**CONCLUSION**: The beatitude creates a portrait of an ideal citizen of heaven. So we are not to pick and choose whoever we can execute rather we should able to showcase all of them in our lives as they are the fruits of the spirit. The Pharisaic righteousness contrasted sharply with these attributes listed here so right from the get go, they know they were on the chopping block with Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, people with these attributes are not going to be the best friends of the world. So again, Jesus was trying to say from the origin that if you are going to tag along with Him, you are going to have challenges on earth. For people who are expecting a ride in the park kind of Christianity, they may be in a shock. IT there helps to count your cost before you take this track. The result is gainful but the process can be painful.