

## The Sermon on the Mount

2 Corinthians 13:2; 2 Corinthians 10:12

### Introduction:

- A. Jesus preached the sermon.
  - 1. His birth, Egypt, Nazareth. Matthew 2
  - 2. Visit to Jerusalem at twelve. Luke 2
- B. The sermon was prepared by John the Baptist preaching repentance in view of the coming Kingdom. Matthew 3:1-3
- C. Jesus' baptism. Matthew 3:13-17
- D. The sermon was preceded by the temptation of Jesus and His preaching, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 4:1-25
- E. The sermon is a call to repentance.
  - 1. Aim high. Matthew 5:48; 1 John 2:1, 2
  - 2. We'll hit low. 1 John 1:8, 10; Romans 3:23
  - 3. Love, trust and follow Jesus. 1 John 2:1-11; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 1 John 1:1-10
- F. Christianity is hard, impossible. Matthew 19:22-26
- G. We can't keep it perfectly — that's hard.
- H. His perfect obedience counts for us when we receive His gift — that's easy.  
2 Corinthians 5:21
- I. Jesus does expect us to do what He says — that's hard. Luke 9:23-27; John 14:15-24
- J. The Sermon on the Mount tells us what repenting looks like. Matthew 3:2, 8
- K. "Christianity is both harder and easier than you thought" — C. S. Lewis.
- L. "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, hanged by the Nazis April 9, 1945, opposing Hitler Luke 9:23
- M. Does the Sermon on the Mount apply to us since it was delivered before He died, the old law was abolished, and the New Covenant took effect?
  - 1. A person writes his or her will before they die.
  - 2. The will is probated and the benefits distributed after death. Hebrews 9:15-17

N. What is the kingdom?

1. The word is used 162 times in the New Testament.
2. Geographical territory. Mark 6:23
3. Authority reign of God among men. Matthew 21:28-43
  - a. Israel.
  - b. Christ's kingdom, kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven. Luke 1:26-33; John 3:30; Matthew 16:18, 19
4. The eternal kingdom. Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 1:10, 11

## Matthew 5

- A. Jesus preached this sermon to the multitudes. Matthew 4:23-5:1; 7:28 (same word: multitudes, people)
- B. The application is to each person individually. Matthew 7:24-27
1. Jesus was talking to the multitude one at a time.
  2. He was not teaching how to get everyone else straightened out but how to follow Him.
- C. Let's read this sermon as if Jesus were speaking to me, one-on-one as he did to Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and Zacchaeus.
1. Jesus was talking to the multitude one at a time.
  2. How do these principles apply to me? How am I following Jesus in living like this?
- D. The approach. 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Corinthians 10:12
- D. The beatitudes.
1. **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 5:3
    - a. Blessed — fortunate, flourishing. The opposite of what is generally thought.
    - b. Poor in spirit — opposite arrogant, boldness self-assertion.
    - c. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven(s).
    - d. Am I poor in spirit?
  2. **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.** Matthew 5:4
    - a. They mourn over their sins and the sins of others. 2 Corinthians 7:10
    - b. They "bear suffering."
      - (1) They don't seek it.
      - (2) They don't withdraw from suffering, deny suffering, are not worn down, embittered, and broken by suffering.
    - c. Am I sorry for my sins, not defensive?
  3. **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.** Matthew 5:5

- a. meekness, mildness, forbearance (Complete Word Study of the New Testament, Logos).
  - b. pertaining to being gentle and mild— ‘mild, gentle’ (Low Nida, Logos).
  - c. Strength under control.
  - d. They shall inherit the earth (land). Revelation 21
  - e. Do I have my strength under control?
4. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.** Matthew 5:6
- a. Disciples live with not only renouncing their own rights, but even renouncing their own righteousness. They get no credit themselves for what they do and sacrifice. The only righteousness they can have is in hungering and thirsting for it. They will have neither their own righteousness nor God’s righteousness on earth. At all times they look forward to God’s future righteousness, but they cannot bring it about by themselves (Bonhoeffer).
  - b. They shall be satisfied. The only hunger and thirst that can be satisfied.
  - c. Am I hungry and thirsty for righteousness?
5. **Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.** Matthew 5:7
- a. Not meeting out deserved punishment.
  - b. Compassionate, benevolently merciful involving thought and action (Complete Word Study of the New Testament, Logos).
  - c. They shall receive mercy.
  - d. Am I merciful?
6. **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.** Matthew 5:8
- a. Pure in heart: “Clean or pure in a spiritual sense from the pollution and guilt of sin (Matt. 5:8, sincere, upright, void of evil)” (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, Logos*).
  - b. Those who renounce their own good and evil.
  - c. They shall see God.
    - 1. Not His face. Exodus 33:20
    - 2. Moses spoke to Him face to face. Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:6-8
    - 3. In the new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21:1-3
  - b. Do I realize my heart isn’t completely pure? Do I want it to be?
7. **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.** Matthew 5:9
- a. McKnight defines peacemaking as “an active entrance into the middle of warring parties for the purpose of creating reconciliation and peace,” and he says that peacemaking is not being “nice” or “tolerant” or soft-pedaling around differences (quoted by Gallagher).
  - b. They renounce violence and strife.
  - c. They overcome evil with good.

d. They shall be called sons of God.

8. **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 5:10

- a. Suffering for the sake of a righteous cause.
- b. The same reward as the poor in spirit.

9. **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.** Matthew 5:11, 12

#. Summary: In flying lessons, Lawrence Browning would say, "Watch your attitude, get your nose down! Get your nose down!" Check my heart — What do I think and feel?

- a. Basic attitudes: You will be blessed when you: Matthew 5:1-12
- b. Are aware of your weaknesses and needs.
- c. Know how to be sad and loose well.
- d. Have your strength under control.
- e. Have an insatiable desire to know and do right.
- f. Are willing to cut other people slack as you know you need at times.
- g. Know that your heart is not 100% pure but you want it to be.
- h. Increase your toleration for pain in yourself and others to see relationships repaired.
- i. Had rather be hurt than do wrong.
- j. Understand that unless you are being sabotaged, you probably aren't leading.

10. **You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.** Matthew 5:13

- a. Salt flavors, preserves, creates thirst.
- b. If it loses its flavor, it is useless.
- c. How much is a Christian to be like the world? 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1;  
1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- d. Do I flavor, preserve, create thirst for the water of life?
- e. What am I good for? Or am I good for nothing?

11. **You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.** Matthew 5:16
- a. If we are light, should we feel defeated because of the darkness? When and where is a small or large light most visible?
  - b. What do people see of us and glorify our Father?
  - c. Remember this principle when we come to chapter 6.
  - d. Do I shine or disappear when the sun goes down and the lights go off?
12. **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. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.**** Matthew 5:17, 18
- a. Jesus promise was to completely, perfectly obey the will of God.
  - b. I am to follow Jesus. My goal is to completely, perfectly obey the will of God.
  - c. Is my goal to do as little as possible to be recognized as a member of the church or to dot every I and cross every T?
  - d. Does my attitude show in my actions? Can others see who I really am by what I do? Do I make a difference by my life and direction? Can others follow me and be guided in the right way?
  - e. What is my obedience goal — as little as possible or all that God says? Matthew 5:17-20; Matthew 23:1, 2
  - f. What is the difference between a P and an R, an I and a T? A very small mark, dot. That's the aim of Jesus and His followers, to dot every i and cross every t.
13. **Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 5:19
- a. Being “least in the kingdom of heaven” is not a reference to ranking in the kingdom or getting in by the skin of one's teeth but rather is a poetically parallel way of saying one does not get in, as 5:20 makes clearer (Gallagher quoting Pennington).
  - b. Later statements of Jesus back this up. Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 8:5-13
14. **For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 5:20
- a. How do we exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees? Giving more than 10%?
  - b. Jesus identified the problem as one of emphasis; it's not that these scribes

and Pharisees who disputed with Jesus did the wrong things or taught the wrong things (note Matt 23:2–3) but that they emphasized the technicalities of the law and failed to focus on the big picture. They emphasized tithing the tiniest spices but failed to emphasize justice and mercy and faithfulness (23:23). “Jesus clearly perceived the Pharisees as not centering the Torah in love but seeing love as merely one of the commandments” (McKnight quoted by Gallagher). But Jesus declared that love of God and love of neighbor was the basis for the entire Law and Prophets (22:37–40). Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14, 15

- c. Jesus was baptized when the Pharisees and Sadducees rejected John’s baptism which was approved by God the Father. Matthew 3:7-17
- d. Jesus was baptized by John when John objected and told Him He didn’t need to be baptized. Matthew 3:3-17
  - (1) Jesus wanted to do everything God told him to do.
  - (2) The Pharisees wanted to look better than others and omit weightier matters. Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 23
  - (3) People who want to enter the kingdom of heaven will do the will of the Father in heaven. Matthew 7:21

**14. You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. Matthew 5:21-26**

- a. What is my attitude toward others?
  - (1) Just don't kill anybody? 5:21
  - (2) What do I say to and about others? 5:22
- b. Do I want to be at peace and reconciled with everyone possible?  
5:23-26; Romans 12:18

**How important is it to take responsibility for my attitude?**

**15. In sexual temptations? You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman**

**with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. Matthew 5:27-30**

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## **The porn crisis is not coming... It is here.**

The Porn Phenomenon is an assessment of the cultural place of pornography today.

Pornography is pervasive, permeating our culture from shop windows to web ads, premium cable shows to smartphone apps. Where once it was kept literally under wraps, used furtively in secret and shame, porn is now a standard feature of everyday life, seen by most teens and young adults as less morally offensive than failing to recycle.

### **The Porn Phenomenon**

Produced in partnership with Josh McDowell Ministry, you'll find The Porn Phenomenon study exposes the breadth and depth of porn's impact and shows that the Christian community can no longer ignore pornography's effects on the minds and hearts of the next generation.

This study is sure to stir up a conversation about porn in our society and within the Christian community – and we hope it leads to healthy, meaningful change. Because a lot of what we have been doing to help address porn in a digital culture doesn't seem to be working very well.

Here are some of the top-level findings:

### **Porn: What Is It and Why Use It?**

**1. Porn is notoriously difficult to define. For Americans, it's more a question of function than form. The defined porn mostly based on the function it serves: for the purpose of sexual arousal.**

- Most Americans do not believe full nudity or especially partial nudity qualify as porn.
- There is a wide range of definitions of porn across various segments of society.

- 1. People use porn for the obvious: arousal. But also for boredom, curiosity, and fun.**
  - Younger adults and teens are more likely than older adults to use porn for boredom, curiosity and fun.
  - Those 25- to 50-year-old tend to use for getting sex tips or to set a mood with a partner.
  - “Being less risky than actual sex” is higher motivation among both teens and older adults—for different reasons, presumably.

### **The Morality of Porn**

- 1. One of the favorable realities uncovered by the research is the degree of transparency respondents display on the topic.**
  - Porn is a much more readily “researchable” topic than it was two decades ago. It’s a subject that does not have the same social taboo that it once did. When respondents were allowed to “opt-out” of questions of a personal nature, more than 90% continued through the survey questions, indicating data reliability.
- 2. Most Americans believe porn is “bad for society,” but those attitudes are shifting toward neutrality or “good for society” among younger generations.**
- 3. Only small minority of adults who use porn report much “guilt” about porn.**
  - Teens are most likely age segment to experience feelings of guilt, although it’s still a minority of teenagers.
  - Practicing Christians are twice as likely as others to experience guilt.
- 1. Teens and young adults have “encouraging” or “accepting” conversations toward porn.**
  - When they talk about porn with friends, 89% of teens, and 95% of young adults say they do so in a neutral, accepting, or encouraging way. That is, only one in 20 young adults and one in 10 teens say their friends think viewing pornography is a bad thing.
- 2. Teens & young adults view “not recycling” as more immoral than viewing porn.**
  - 32% say viewing porn is “usually or always wrong” compared to 56% who say not recycling is “usually or always wrong.”



## **Porn in the “Screen Age”**

### **1. Pornography has gone almost completely digital.**

- Example: 71% of adults, 85% of teens and young adults who have viewed pornography did so using online videos
- Magazines, graphic novels, on-demand videos and cable or rented/purchased DVDs are a very small part of the “market.”

### **1. Not only is porn more accessible in the digital context, but unsolicited porn has increased substantially as well.**

- Nearly half of young adults say they come across porn at least once a week—even when they aren’t seeking it out.
- Nearly three-quarters of young adults (71%) and half of teens (50%) come across what they consider to be porn at least once a month, whether they are seeking it or not.

### **1. While porn has typically been a man’s domain, its usage among young women seems to have become more common, perhaps due to digital access.**

- Teenage girls and young women are significantly more likely to actively seek out porn than women over age 25, which is similar to men.
- However, more than half of women 25 and under ever seek out porn (56% versus 27% among women 25-plus) and one-third seek it out at least monthly (33% versus just 12% among older men).
- In contrast, among teen and young adult men, 81% ever seek it out and 67% at least monthly. Among men ages 25-plus, the comps are 65% and 47

### **1. Most teens are “sexting”—either on the receiving or sending end of sexually explicit images.**

- 62% of teens and young adults have received a sexually explicit image and 41% have sent one (usually from/to their boy/girlfriend or friend).

## **Porn and Pastors**

### **1. Most pastors (57%) and youth pastors (64%) admit they have struggled with porn, either currently or in the past.**

- Overall, 21% of youth pastors and 14% of pastors admit they currently struggle with using porn.
  - About 12% of youth pastors and 5% of pastors say they are addicted to porn
  - 87% of pastors who use porn feel a great sense of shame about it.
  - 55% of pastors who use porn say they live in constant fear of being discovered.
  - The vast majority of faith leaders who struggle with porn say this has significantly affected their ministry in a negative manner. It is not clear why, but youth pastors are twice as likely as pastors to report this kind of unfavorable impact.
1. **There is a big difference of opinion between faith leaders and congregants when it comes to the consequences for pastors who struggle with porn.**
    - Only 8% of pastors think that a pastor should resign his/her position if s/he is struggling with porn. Most pastors think s/he should deal with the struggle through counseling or accountability.
    - In contrast, 41% of adult Christians think that pastors should be fired or asked to resign if they are found to be using porn. Younger Christians are more likely to take a grace-filled approach.
  1. **The vast majority of the faith community, including leaders and laity, believe pornography is a bigger problem in the Church than it was two decades ago. But many do not know what to do about it.**
    - 93% of pastors and 94% of youth pastors say it is a much bigger or somewhat bigger problem than it was in the past.
    - More than half of youth pastors have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with porn in the past 12 months.
    - Although teens seeking help are mainly teen boys, there is still a significant amount of teen girls seeking help from youth pastors.
    - Men of all ages and stages, but especially married men, are coming to pastors for help with pornography struggles.
    - Despite the awareness of the problem, most churches do not have programs specifically designed to assist those struggling with porn use.

Christian community, what can we do to take action on research like this? We would do well to consider and pray for the very personal stories and struggles that form these numbers. In what ways can you address the challenges of the phenomenon of porn in your context today? <https://www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon/>

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16. In my marriage? **It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.** Matthew 5:31, 32

17. In telling the truth? **Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.” But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply “Yes” or “No”; anything more than this comes from evil.** Matthew 5:33-37

18. What effort may I have to exert and what pain may I have to suffer to demonstrate the right attitude? **You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.** Matthew 5:38-42

19. What is the Jesus-follower's attitude toward people who hurt me? **You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than**

others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.** Matthew 5:43-48

## **Matthew 6**

**Check Your Eyes — Where Is My Focus, Inward or Outward?**

**Intent is Important**

1. When I am helping others? **Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from our Father who is in heaven.**

**Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.** Matthew 6:1-4

2. When I am praying? **And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

**And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:**

**“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:5-15**

3. When I am fasting? **And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:16-18**

4. Where is my focus — trying to fix everyone else or me first? **The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! Matthew 6:22, 23**

5. What is my relationship with money and material things? **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...**

**No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:19-21, 24**

6. How is that reflected in my thoughts and concerns about the past and present? **Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Matthew 6:25-32**

7. What is the solution to correct a deficiency in this area? **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** Matthew 6:33

8. When I do that, what will be my focus in the future: **Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.** Matthew 6:34

## **Matthew 7**

**Check Your Action — What Am I Going to Do About My Examination?  
Am I Wise or Foolish?**

1. Am I more concerned about correcting what I see wrong in others or what I see that needs to be improved in me? **Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.** Matthew 7:1-5

Folks in Heaven  
by J. Taylor Ludwig

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
As I entered Heaven's door,  
Not by the beauty of it all,  
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
Who made me sputter and gasp--  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,  
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade  
Who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
Who never said anything nice.

Uncle Bill, who I always thought  
Was rotting away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?  
I would love to hear Your take.'  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake

'And why is everyone so quiet,



So somber - give me a clue.'  
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'  
— Copyright © 2004

2. Am I so concerned about specks and logs in others that I'm wasting everything that's holy by not working on me? **Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.** Matthew 7:6
3. Do I ask for what I want and need and trust God to give me what I need? **Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!** Matthew 7:7-11 (*we aim high, hit low*)
4. Do I treat others as I want to be treated or treat others as they treat me? Do I act or react to others? **So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.** Matthew 7:12
5. What is the path of my life? Am I in the minority? Is it difficult? **Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.** Matthew 7:13, 14

6. Am I aware of the people I give permission to influence me? How do I decide who I will believe? Do I give much thought to who guides me? **Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.** Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2; Jude 3-19

7. Am I content to say the right words at the right times in worship, do some good things and think that God is obligated to save me? Do I realize that I am to imitate Jesus in what I think, say, and do? **Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** 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?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Matthew 7:21-23

8. According to Jesus, am I wise or foolish? **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 the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded 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. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.** Matthew 7:24-27

## Conclusion

- Is there any hope since I cannot keep every jot and tittle, and cannot be perfect as God is perfect.
- Yes. I can aim for that and Jesus has paid for my lack. 1 John 2:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- How can I grow to be “more and more like Jesus”?
- Accept His grace (gift). Cecil May: Unless we preach on grace until people think they need to sin more to get more grace, we aren’t preaching like Paul. When they think they should sin more to get more grace, unless we correct that, we aren’t preaching grace like Paul.
- Work on myself:

### Consider Yourself

Posted on June 12, 2017

I am often asked my opinion about someone else’s standing with God. “They did so-and-so. If they refuse to repent, will they be lost?”

Jesus was asked similar questions. Someone said, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And He said unto them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.” (Luke 13:23- 24).

Jesus told Peter, “Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” (John 21:18-22)

Each time, when Jesus is asked by someone about someone else's salvation, He says, in effect, "Mind your own business; make your own calling and election sure." — Cecil May, Preacher Talk, Faulkner University

- Intent is important. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- By the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:3, 4; Galatians 3:2-4; Galatians 5:19-25

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Woke up and started thinking about this, May 6, 2023