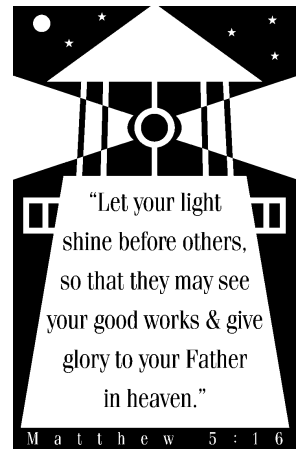


Quest Confirmation Class
Week 8
The Sermon on the Mount



Kingdom of Heaven is here!!

- 😊 Israelites had been promised the Kingdom of Heaven (Isaiah 11)
- 😊 Like the Exodus from Egypt, they looked for a great king or leader who would make Israel into a great nation, free from other nations' rules and would live in perfect peace. Zechariah 14:4-17
- 😊 A few signs of the kingdom: healings, miracles, riding into battle on a horse.
- 😊 Jesus taught that the Kingdom was already here (with him and his teachings) but that it wasn't complete (Parable of the weeds: World is a mix of God's presence/blessings and evil). With Jesus' death evil and death has been conquered, but still is present. At the end of time, evil will be banished and there will be a new heaven and new earth.

What is the Sermon on the Mount?

Read Matthew chapters 5-7, also in Luke 6:20-49

- 😊 Jesus taught his disciples and the crowd inviting them to follow the values of the Kingdom of God
- 😊 He taught with authority, more than the scribes had (Matthew 7:29)

Not Just a List of Rules

- 😊 Religious leaders of the time had made Judaism about following rules. They were devoted to the law, and wanted to please God but had begun to "worship" the law instead of God.
- 😊 Jesus often confronted the religious leaders for their legalistic rules and attitudes.
- 😊 I Samuel 15:22 "But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams' "
- 😊 Concern with details can overshadow the meaning of the law.

Thinking Turned Upside Down

- 😊 Jesus taught a new way to live, from the heart
- 😊 Jesus calls for a response: Repentance and action
- 😊 Put God, not rules, first
- 😊 Rules are meant to guide us and change our attitudes so we can become more like God and make a difference in others' lives
- 😊 Love for God and others becomes a lifestyle
- 😊 Matthew 7:12—The "Golden Rule" sums up the sermon

Break into pairs and look at short teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. What does this teaching tell us about what God values? How does it challenge us to live (give an example)?

The Sermon on the Mount: REFLECTION

Name: _____

Class Summary:

Jesus' teaching to his disciples and the crowd challenged the current way of thinking. In an effort to obey God's law, the people had actually begun to "worship" the law and put it first. Jesus reminded them of what God valued and taught how we should live. He taught that the "Kingdom of Heaven," a kingdom of peace where he would reign was here in him. We see that he asks us to be those who spread or grow his kingdom on earth. One day he will return and the kingdom will be complete. Until then, we must live a life full of God's values so that others will notice the difference in us and come to know God.

Scripture Memory Work:

Acts 1:8

Also, CONTINUE memorizing the books of the Bible. You will be quizzed on this May 4th (Old Testament) and May 11th (New Testament). But it's a lot! Start now!

Family Time Questions *Youth and Parents please talk about and answer together*

- Youth and Parents, what do you believe about Jesus' teachings?

- Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7) together. Which parts are hardest for you to live out? Parents and Youth, please share.

- Sometimes we can expect God to be or act a certain way (like the Jewish people looked for a political king or leader). What does the Sermon on the Mount show us about who God is?

- Parents and Youth, how do you "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Be specific.

- What value of God's will you work on this week? What will you do to grow in it? Pray for each other, sharing prayer requests and asking God to help. (*ex: Value: love for enemies. I will be nice to _____ who is mean to me*)

Pray for each other that with God's help you can grow in this area. Decide to be comfortable asking each other during the week how its going.

For next week:

Looking at your syllabus, topics we've covered, share with your parents what you have learned and what you believe about each one. Write some notes down on the back (this is preparation for writing your Statement of Faith).

If you have any questions about this lesson, please contact Jim and I will try to answer your questions (234-8673, jpope@fpcf.org)