

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## The Way Up Is Down Matthew 5:46-48

How do Christians differ from "natural men"?  
What does it really mean to be a Christian?

"And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?" Matthew 5:47

There's no attitude regarding the Sermon on the Mount quite so ridiculous as one which regards it as if it were an ethical social program.

...This child is set for the rising and fall of many in Israel...

- Is there anything more discouraging than the Sermon on the Mount? It seems utterly impossible!
- But at the same time, do we know of anything more encouraging than the Sermon on the Mount? The very fact that we are commanded to do these things carries with it an implicit assertion that IT IS POSSIBLE!

**NATURAL man:** has never seen the glory/uniqueness of Christianity.

The **MISTAKE** thinking Christians are just people who make a greater moral effort than anyone else and have more self-discipline.

We must **LEARN:** to place the precepts in the right position.

Sanctification: must not be **FORGOTTEN** or overlaid by justification.

## THE CHRISTIAN IS UNIQUE

IT'S A UNIQUENESS THAT SEPARATES CHRISTIANS FROM ALL WHO ARE NOT BELIEVERS

"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"  
Matthew 5:46-47

"We must teach plainly that the faith which saves the soul is not a dead faith, but a faith which operates with purifying effect upon our entire nature, and produces in us fruits of righteousness to the praise and glory of God." ~Spurgeon

- There are many people in the world who are **NOT** Christians but are very moral and highly ethical, whose word is their bond, and who are scrupulous and honest, just and upright. But they aren't Christians.

A CHRISTIAN IS POSITIVELY LIKE THE FATHER AND SON, JESUS CHRIST

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."  
Matthew 5:48

- There are many people today who think of the Christian as one who believes in God, who is **MORALLY** good, ethical, etc. But that does not make a Christian.

Jesus: Who do you say that I am?  
The Christ, Son of the Living God.

- We're not to pay attention to the principles in **ORDER** to be saved, but because we are saved.
- For Jesus Christ, the hallmark of Christians is "extraordinary."

# WAYS THE CHRISTIAN DISPLAYS THIS UNIQUENESS

## THE CHRISTIAN IS DIFFERENT FROM THE NATURAL MAN.

### Thinking:

- Natural man – *may observe law, but never goes beyond it*
- Christian – *is more concerned with spirit than mechanical letter*

### Morality:

- Natural man – *generally negative attitude: 'don't do certain things'*
- Christian – *always positive-hungers and thirsts after righteousness*

### Sin:

- Natural man – *thinks of sin in terms of action, done/not done*
- Christian – *interested in the heart*

### Towards self:

- Natural man – *admits he is not entirely perfect, has character flaws*
- Christian – *if not for Christ's death on cross, no hope. 'I'm vile & full of sin'*

### Towards others:

- Natural man – *regard others w/ tolerance, say we shouldn't be too hard on others, sympathy*
- Christian – *goes beyond, sees as terrible victims of sin, captive by 'god of this world'-empathy*

### View of God:

- Natural man – *Someone to be obeyed, feared*
- Christian – *loves God because he loves Him as Father, holy & loving, enjoys a relationship of love*

### Living:

- Natural man – *does much good, but likes to keep record of it, subtly*
- Christian – *great motive to Christian living is love-gives w/out counting cost*

### Reactions to life:

- Natural man – *face trials w/dignity, iron & stoic will, doesn't complain, bottles it up*
- Christian – *perseveres because sees a hidden meaning – Rom. 8:28-29*

### Injustices:

- Natural man – *face w/calm & iron will, no retaliation, ignores/ dismisses those who misunderstand*
- Christian – *denies himself, takes cross, follows Christ- understands he has heaven*

### Towards neighbors:

- Natural man – *sometimes passive, decide not to strike back, not easy*
- Christian – *Christ alone is how I love my enemy, does good to those who hate him – prays for them*

### Death:

- Natural man – *may die w/dignity, no complaining-stoic & calm as in life*
- Christian – *faces death- "to live is Christ, die is gain" confident where he is going, not afraid*

# WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES A CHRISTIAN DIFFERENT? UNIQUE?

## What makes him do more than others? His outlook on SIN.

- The Christian has seen himself as utterly hopeless and condemned, he has seen himself as a person who is utterly GUILTY before God and who has no CLAIM whatsoever on His love.
- He has been forgiven when he does not deserve it, therefore what right does he have not to forgive his enemy?

Natural man – TAKE yourself and build.

Christian – DENY yourself and trust.

# Cutting it Straight WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

The Christian is one who has become a child of God and is in a unique RELATIONSHIP to God, that's what makes him special.

- When you first read the Sermon on the Mount, you're discouraged, but then it reminds you that you are a child of your Father God.

The salvation of Christ isn't a salvation in sin, but a salvation from sin.

- God brings us to Christ, and nails our sins to His cross, and gives us life in our Savior's life.

THE POOREST CHRISTIAN POSSESSES MORE  
THAN THE RICHEST UNBELIEVER.

For completed notes of today's sermon, visit the FFC website – [www.faithfellowship.us](http://www.faithfellowship.us)