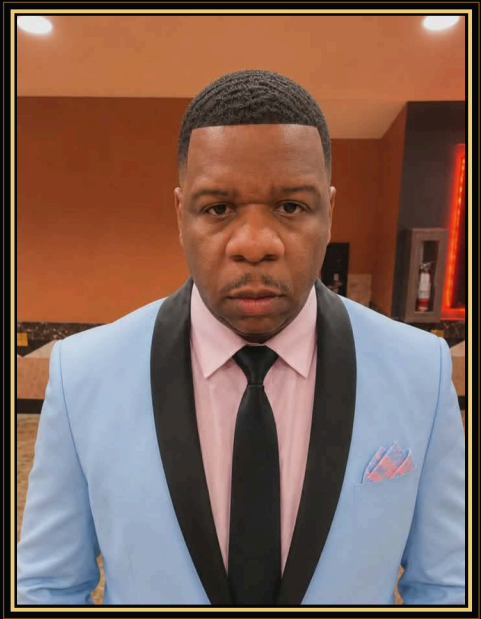
THE BOOKFOLIO

TP

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

THE FULL SERMON MANUSCRIPT

MATTHEW 5-7 • KING JAMES VERSION



TERRELL POWELL

AUTHOR OF 11:59 BEFORE MIDNIGHT

THE BOOKFOLIO

The Sermon on the Mount

THE FULL SERMON MANUSCRIPT

A Sermon by Terrell Powell

Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red, the way Terrell wrote them.

Writing

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Come Up the Mountain With Me

Main Scripture: Matthew Chapters 5–7

Theme: Hearing the Words of Jesus, Understanding His Heart, and Living What He Taught

Preacher's note: The Scripture readings follow Matthew 5–7 in order. Read every indicated passage aloud from the King James Bible before giving the explanation. The quoted verses below are key passages, and the remaining verses are included in the reading instructions so none of Jesus' teachings are passed over. Words in the preaching portions are explanations, not additional quotations from Christ.

OPENING — CHURCH, COME UP THE MOUNTAIN WITH ME

Church, today I want you to use your imagination.

I don't just want you to read Matthew chapter 5.

I don't just want you to hear me quote Scripture.

I want you to come with me.

Come up the mountain.

For a few moments, forget about the building you're sitting in.

Forget about the lights.

Forget about the microphone.

Forget about everything waiting for you when you leave here.

And imagine that you are there.

You can feel the ground underneath your feet.

You can hear people talking around you.

People are coming from different places.

Some are hurting.

Some are sick.

Some are curious.

Some have heard about this man named Jesus.

They have heard about the miracles.

They have heard about the healings.

They have heard that lives have been changed.

And now the crowd is gathering.

But Jesus isn't standing inside a beautiful temple.

There is no stage.

There is no microphone.

There are no padded chairs.

There is just a mountain...

A crowd...

And Jesus.

Scripture — Matthew 5:1–2

Read Matthew 5:1–2 aloud.

Matthew tells us that Jesus sees the multitudes, goes up onto a mountain, sits down, and begins teaching His disciples.

Church, imagine that moment.

Jesus sits down.

His disciples come close.

And there are people gathered around, listening.

Some have come looking for healing.

Some have come looking for hope.

But what they're about to hear is more than a message about their circumstances.

Jesus is going to teach them about the Kingdom of Heaven.

He's going to teach them about their hearts.

Their relationships.

Their enemies.

Their prayers.

Their money.

Their worries.

Their choices.

And even the foundation they're building their lives upon.

But watch where Jesus begins.

PART ONE — JESUS STARTS WITH PEOPLE

Matthew 5:3–12 — The Beatitudes

Now church, if Jesus were beginning a sermon today, what would you expect Him to talk about first?

Sin?

Judgment?

Heaven?

Hell?

The commandments?

But look at His opening words.

He begins with blessings.

And not necessarily with the people the world would have chosen.

1. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Scripture — Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Church, what is Jesus saying?

When Jesus says poor in spirit, He isn't talking simply about somebody who doesn't have money.

He's talking about somebody who recognizes their need for God.

Somebody who understands:

I cannot save myself.

I cannot make myself righteous.

I cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven on my own goodness.

I need God's mercy.

I need God's forgiveness.

I need God's grace.

Church, a person can have a million dollars in the bank and still be poor in spirit.

And somebody can have only five dollars in their pocket and still be full of pride.

Because Jesus isn't measuring the money in your pocket.

He's dealing with the attitude of your heart.

The poor in spirit don't come before God bragging about how good they are.

They come recognizing how much they need Him.

And Jesus says the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such people.

Church, here's the question.

When you come before God, do you come telling Him how good you are?

Or do you come recognizing how good He is?

2. Blessed Are They That Mourn

Scripture — Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Now wait a minute, Jesus.

How can somebody who is mourning be blessed?

Mourning means sorrow.

Mourning means grief.

Mourning means something has brought pain into your life.

But Jesus isn't calling suffering a wonderful thing.

He's promising comfort to those who mourn.

And there's another kind of mourning.

When you begin to recognize what sin has done.

When your heart is broken because you've done something against God.

When you stop making excuses and say:

Lord, I was wrong.

Forgive me.

Help me change.

Jesus wants them to know that sorrow does not have to be the end of their story.

There is comfort in God.

Church, some people in this room know what mourning feels like.

You've cried over somebody you've lost.

You've cried over a situation you couldn't change.

You've cried over something nobody else even knew about.

And sometimes people don't know what to say.

But Jesus promises that those who mourn will be comforted.

3. Blessed Are the Meek

Scripture — Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Church, let me ask you something.

When you hear the word meek, do you think about somebody who is weak?

Somebody who lets everybody walk over them?

Somebody who cannot defend themselves?

That's not what meekness means.

Meekness is humility and strength under control.

A meek person doesn't have to prove they're the strongest person in the room.

They don't have to win every argument.

They don't have to answer every insult.

They can trust God instead of always demanding their own way.

And notice the promise.

Jesus says the meek shall inherit the earth.

The world tells you that the aggressive and powerful will take everything.

But Jesus points to the humble people who trust God.

Church, sometimes the strongest thing you can do is control your own spirit.

4. Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness

Scripture — Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Now church, everybody here knows what hunger feels like.

You know what it's like when you haven't eaten.

You start thinking about food.

You start looking for food.

And when you get thirsty enough, you're not thinking about a new pair of shoes.

You're thinking about something to drink!

Jesus takes something every person understands and uses it to teach a spiritual truth.

What if we wanted righteousness the way a hungry person wants food?

What if we wanted to please God the way a thirsty person wants water?

To hunger for righteousness means we want what is right before God.

We want our hearts to be right.

Our actions to be right.

Our relationships to be right.

And we want God's justice and goodness to be seen in the world.

Church, here's the question.

What are you hungry for?

More money?

More attention?

More recognition?

Or do you have a hunger to know God and live according to His Word?

Jesus promises that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled.

5. Blessed Are the Merciful

Scripture — Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

Now Jesus begins dealing with how we treat other people.

What is mercy?

Mercy is showing compassion to someone who needs it.

It's refusing to be cruel simply because you have the opportunity.

It's helping the hurting.

It's showing forgiveness.

It's remembering that you also need God's mercy.

Church, isn't it amazing how quickly we want mercy when we're the one who has done something wrong?

But when somebody else does something wrong, we can be ready to condemn them.

We want God to be patient with us.

But are we patient with others?

We want God to forgive us.

But are we willing to forgive?

Jesus is showing us that people who have received God's mercy should become merciful people.

6. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Scripture — Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Now church, this one goes deeper.

Because Jesus isn't talking about the clothes you wear.

He's not talking about how loudly you shout.

He's not talking about how well you can sing.

He's talking about your heart.

To be pure in heart means having a sincere heart before God.

A heart that isn't divided between pretending to serve God and secretly loving sin.

A heart that desires to be cleansed and made right.

People see what you do.

But God knows why you do it.

Somebody can look holy on the outside and be hiding something entirely different inside.

Jesus is teaching that true righteousness begins within.

And notice the promise.

They shall see God.

Church, that's bigger than earthly recognition.

Bigger than money.

Bigger than applause.

The greatest blessing is knowing God and one day seeing Him.

7. Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Scripture — Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Notice Jesus doesn't just say people who enjoy peace.

He says peacemakers.

That means people who help bring peace.

People who refuse to stir up unnecessary

trouble.

People who don't keep adding fuel to somebody else's argument.

Now listen carefully.

Being a peacemaker doesn't mean pretending that wrongdoing is acceptable.

It doesn't mean remaining somewhere unsafe.

And it doesn't mean sacrificing truth just to keep people happy.

It means seeking reconciliation and acting with the peace and righteousness of God.

Church, some people walk into a room and everybody starts arguing.

Other people walk into a room and begin helping everybody calm down.

Which one are we?

Are we bringing division?

Or are we working toward peace?

Jesus says peacemakers will be called the children of God.

Why?

Because they reflect something about the character of their Father.

8. Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted

Scripture — Matthew 5:10–12

Read all three verses aloud.

Jesus now speaks about people who suffer for doing what is right and for belonging to Him.

He talks about insults.

Lies.

False accusations.

And persecution.

But notice something.

Jesus isn't saying that every time

somebody disagrees with you, you're being persecuted.

He specifically speaks about suffering for righteousness and for His sake.

Church, sometimes doing the right thing will cost you something.

Sometimes telling the truth will make somebody upset.

Sometimes following Jesus means refusing to go along with the crowd.

But Jesus tells His followers not to measure their reward only by what happens on earth.

There is a reward in heaven.

And He reminds them that God's prophets were persecuted before them.

Church, look at what Jesus has done.

He started with the poor in spirit.

Then those who mourn.

The meek.

The hungry for righteousness.

The merciful.

The pure in heart.

The peacemakers.

And those persecuted for righteousness.

These are the people Jesus calls blessed.

And now we can see something.

The Kingdom of Heaven does not measure greatness the way this world measures greatness.

The world looks at your position.

God looks at your heart.

The world looks at your possessions.

God looks at your faith.

The world looks at your power.

God looks at your humility.

And somebody sitting on that mountain needed to hear those words.

Maybe they felt forgotten.

Maybe they felt pushed aside.

Maybe they were grieving.

Maybe they thought God didn't see them.

But Jesus opened His mouth and began with blessings.

Church, don't allow the world to tell you that your circumstances determine whether God sees you.

PART TWO — YOU ARE SALT AND LIGHT

Matthew 5:13–16

Now imagine sitting there listening.

Jesus has just described the character of those who belong to His Kingdom.

And suddenly He begins talking about something familiar.

Salt.

Scripture — Matthew 5:13

Read Matthew 5:13 aloud.

Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth.

Why salt?

Because salt has a purpose.

It gives flavor.

In the ancient world, salt was also valuable for preserving food.

Jesus is teaching His followers that their lives are supposed to make a difference.

But He also warns about salt losing its usefulness.

Church, we cannot forget that warning.

What good is claiming to belong to Jesus if our lives never reflect His teaching?

What good is saying that we believe in mercy if we refuse to show mercy?

What good is talking about righteousness while refusing to practice it?

And then Jesus moves from salt to light.

Scripture — Matthew 5:14–16

Read all three verses aloud.

Jesus calls His followers the light of the world.

Then He speaks about a city on a hill.

A city that cannot be hidden.

And a lamp that people don't light just to cover it.

They place it where it can give light to the house.

Church, notice that Jesus doesn't tell us to shine so people can admire us.

He teaches that our good works should lead people to glorify our Father in Heaven.

That's important.

Because some people want to shine so everybody will notice them.

But the Christian's purpose is different.

We shine so that people can see the goodness of God.

When you walk into your home, let your life reflect Christ.

When you walk onto your job, let your life reflect Christ.

When you walk into your school, let your life reflect Christ.

When everybody around you is gossiping, you don't have to join them.

When everybody is doing wrong, you don't have to follow them.

Church, Jesus didn't call us to blend into darkness.

He called us to shine in it.

But remember:

The light is not supposed to draw attention to how wonderful we are. The light is supposed to point people toward our Father.

PART THREE — JESUS GOES AFTER THE HEART

Matthew 5:17–48

Now church, the sermon begins to get uncomfortable.

Because Jesus starts dealing with the Law.

Some people may have believed that keeping the outward commandments was enough.

But Jesus goes deeper.

Jesus and the Law

Scripture — Matthew 5:17–20

Read all four verses aloud.

Jesus makes something clear.

He hasn't come to destroy the Law or the Prophets.

He has come to fulfill them.

He speaks about the lasting importance of God's Word.

He warns against setting aside God's commandments and teaching others to do the same.

And He tells His listeners that their righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees.

Church, what does that mean?

Jesus is exposing the difference between outward religion and real righteousness.

Somebody can know commandments and still have a hard heart.

Somebody can look religious and still lack mercy.

Somebody can know how to act in public while hiding sin in private.

Jesus is not teaching us that we can earn our way into heaven by trying harder.

He's exposing our need for a righteousness that goes deeper than outward appearances.

Anger and Reconciliation

Scripture — Matthew 5:21–26

Read the full passage aloud.

Jesus reminds the crowd of the commandment against murder.

But then He addresses anger, insults, and contempt toward others.

Church, why would Jesus move from murder to anger?

Because serious wrong can grow from what we allow to live in our hearts.

A person doesn't have to kill somebody to be guilty of treating them with hatred.

And then Jesus does something powerful.

He talks about somebody bringing a gift to the altar.

But that person remembers that someone has something against them.

Jesus teaches that they should seek reconciliation.

Church, imagine that.

You're getting ready to worship.

You're getting ready to give.

You're getting ready to offer something to God.

But Jesus reminds you that your relationship with people matters too.

We cannot use worship as an excuse to ignore the wrong we need to make right.

Before I spend all my time talking about what somebody did to me, I need to ask:

Lord, is there something I need to make right?

Have I hurt somebody?

Have I refused to apologize?

Am I holding on to hatred?

Church, Jesus isn't only interested in what happens at the altar. He's interested in what happens after we leave the altar.

Lust and the Heart

Scripture — Matthew 5:27–30

Read the full passage aloud.

Jesus now addresses adultery.

But again, He goes deeper than the outward act.

He addresses the choice to look at another person with lustful intent.

Church, do you see what Jesus is doing?

He keeps taking us beneath the surface.

He is not only concerned about what our hands do.

He is concerned about the desires we choose to entertain in our hearts.

Then Jesus uses strong language about the eye and the hand.

He's using a serious illustration to teach how seriously we must deal with sin.

He isn't telling us to physically injure ourselves.

He's telling us not to treat destructive sin as something harmless.

Church, we cannot keep feeding the same

temptation and then act surprised when it grows stronger.

Sometimes we have to remove something from our lives because it's pulling us away from God.

Marriage, Divorce, and Faithfulness

Scripture — Matthew 5:31–32

Read both verses aloud.

Jesus now addresses divorce and marriage.

He challenges careless attitudes toward ending a marriage and treats marital faithfulness as something serious.

Church, marriage is not something God intended us to treat lightly.

Promises matter.

Faithfulness matters.

The people affected by our decisions matter.

And when we teach this passage, we

must teach it with both truth and compassion.

Jesus is not giving us permission to mistreat people who have experienced divorce.

He is calling us to honor God's design for faithfulness rather than treating relationships as disposable.

Tell the Truth

Scripture — Matthew 5:33–37

Read the full passage aloud.

Now Jesus begins talking about promises and oaths.

And His teaching brings us to a simple lesson.

Let your words be trustworthy.

Church, your yes should mean yes.

Your no should mean no.

You shouldn't have to create a dramatic promise every time you want somebody

to believe you.

Your character should give weight to your words.

If I tell you I'll do something, I should mean it.

If I make a promise, I should take it seriously.

Our speech ought to reflect the truthfulness of God.

Retaliation and Mercy

Scripture — Matthew 5:38–42

Read the full passage aloud.

Jesus now addresses the desire to get even.

He gives examples about being struck, losing a coat, being compelled to walk a mile, and responding to someone in need.

Church, this teaching challenges our natural desire for revenge.

Because when somebody mistreats us,

sometimes our first thought is:

How can I make them feel what I felt?

But Jesus teaches His followers not to be ruled by retaliation.

This does not mean we cannot seek justice or protect someone from harm.

It means revenge must not become the master of our hearts.

Jesus is teaching generosity, restraint, and a willingness to go beyond what people expect.

Church, sometimes you show the character of Christ most clearly when you have an opportunity to get even...

And choose a different response.

Love Your Enemies

Scripture — Matthew 5:43–48

Read the full passage aloud.

Now imagine being among that crowd.

Some of those people lived under Roman

occupation.

They understood the reality of enemies and injustice.

And Jesus tells them to love their enemies.

Pray for those who persecute them.

He reminds them that the Father sends sunlight and rain upon both the just and the unjust.

And then He asks what is so unusual about loving only the people who love you.

Church, that's a question we still need to answer.

Because anybody can be kind to somebody who is kind to them.

Anybody can smile at somebody who smiles back.

But what happens when somebody insults you?

What happens when somebody mistreats

you?

What happens when somebody doesn't like you?

Will you allow that person's behavior to determine your character?

Jesus calls His followers to reflect the love of their heavenly Father.

And He closes this teaching by calling them to the Father's perfection.

He's pointing them toward the complete and mature love of God.

Church, this isn't easy Christianity.

This is Kingdom Christianity.

Because Jesus is not merely teaching us how to behave when everybody treats us right.

He's teaching us how to live when they don't.

PART FOUR — WHEN NOBODY IS WATCHING

Matthew 6:1–18

Now we've come into Matthew chapter 6.

And Jesus begins dealing with another question.

Why do you do what you do?

Not just what you do.

But why.

Giving in Secret

Scripture — Matthew 6:1–4

Read the full passage aloud.

Jesus warns about practicing acts of righteousness simply so other people will notice.

Then He addresses giving to those in need.

He warns against making a show of generosity just to receive praise.

Church, have you ever seen somebody do something good and then make sure everybody knows they did it?

Now, there is nothing wrong with giving a testimony about God's goodness.

And there's nothing wrong with encouraging other people to give.

But Jesus is dealing with our motives.

Am I giving because somebody needs help?

Or am I giving because I want everybody to see how generous I am?

Jesus reminds us that our Father sees what happens in secret.

Church, you don't have to announce everything you do for God.

Some acts of kindness are between you and Him.

Prayer — Talking to Our Father

Scripture — Matthew 6:5–8

Read the full passage aloud.

Jesus now begins talking about prayer.

He warns against praying merely to

impress other people.

He also warns against empty repetitions, as though saying many words will force God to listen.

Church, Jesus isn't saying that every long prayer is wrong.

And He isn't saying that praying the same request more than once is automatically wrong.

He is teaching that prayer isn't a performance.

Prayer is communication with our Father.

And Jesus reminds His listeners that the Father already knows what they need before they ask Him.

Think about that.

God doesn't need you to impress Him with complicated words.

He invites you to come before Him sincerely.

And then Jesus begins teaching them

how to pray.

Scripture — Matthew 6:9–13

Read the entire Lord's Prayer aloud.

Church, let's walk through what Jesus is teaching.

"Our Father which art in heaven"

Prayer begins with relationship.

Jesus teaches us to come before God as Father.

Not as a stranger.

Not as someone who doesn't care.

But as the heavenly Father who knows His children.

"Hallowed be thy name."

That means we honor His name as holy.

Before we begin asking God for everything we need, we acknowledge who He is.

"Thy kingdom come."

We're asking for God's rule and reign to be established.

We want His will to shape our lives and our world.

"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Now church, this is surrender.

Because sometimes God's will and our desires are not the same.

And prayer isn't about changing God into what we want Him to be.

It's about bringing ourselves into agreement with Him.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

This is dependence.

Jesus teaches us to bring our needs to the Father.

Our daily provision.

Our food.

The things we truly need to live.

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Now church, this one reaches into our relationships.

We come asking God to forgive us.

But Jesus also teaches us to extend forgiveness to others.

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

This is a prayer for guidance and protection.

We are asking God to help us resist temptation and deliver us from evil.

And remember: God Himself does not tempt anyone to do evil.

James 1:13 makes that clear.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

This is the closing declaration found in the King James Version.

It brings our attention back to God's kingdom, His power, and His glory.

Church, do you see the order?

Relationship.

Reverence.

God's kingdom.

Surrender.

Daily provision.

Forgiveness.

Guidance.

Deliverance.

Glory.

Jesus is teaching us much more than words to memorize.

He's teaching us how to approach the Father.

Forgiveness Is Not Optional

Scripture — Matthew 6:14–15

Read both verses aloud.

Notice something important.

Jesus comes right back to forgiveness.

Of all the things He has just included in His prayer, He stops to emphasize how we forgive others.

Why?

Because receiving mercy from God should change how we treat people.

Church, forgiveness does not mean pretending someone never hurt you.

It does not mean trusting somebody who continues to cause harm.

And it does not mean that wrongdoing should go without consequences.

Forgiveness means we surrender the desire to hold revenge in our hearts.

We cannot celebrate God's forgiveness while treating unforgiveness as something we have a right to keep forever.

Fasting Before God

Scripture — Matthew 6:16–18

Read the full passage aloud.

Now Jesus addresses fasting.

He warns people not to make themselves look miserable just so others will notice they're fasting.

Church, Jesus is teaching the same lesson again.

Don't turn your relationship with God into a performance.

Giving.

Prayer.

Fasting.

Three spiritual practices.

And Jesus keeps dealing with the heart.

Because God isn't impressed simply because everybody thinks you're spiritual.

He sees whether your worship is sincere.

PART FIVE — WHAT ARE YOU CHASING?

Matthew 6:19–34

Now Jesus begins talking about treasure.

Money.

Possessions.

And worry.

Where Is Your Treasure?

Scripture — Matthew 6:19–21

Read the full passage aloud.

Jesus warns against storing up earthly treasures as though they can last forever.

He reminds His listeners that earthly things can decay, be destroyed, or be stolen.

But treasures in heaven are different.

And He connects treasure with the heart.

Church, think about it.

Where we put our money, our time, and our attention often tells a story about what matters to us.

Somebody can spend their whole life building something they will eventually have to leave behind.

A beautiful house.

An expensive car.

A big bank account.

There is nothing automatically wrong with possessing things.

But something is wrong when those things possess you.

Jesus wants us to value what lasts forever.

What Are Your Eyes Focused On?

Scripture — Matthew 6:22–23

Read both verses aloud.

Jesus uses the eye as an illustration of

light and darkness.

He's teaching us to examine how we see and what directs our lives.

Church, what you focus on matters.

When your whole life is directed by greed, envy, and sinful desires, darkness begins to influence your decisions.

But when your vision is shaped by the truth of God, it guides you in a different direction.

So the question becomes:

What is directing my life?

Two Masters

Scripture — Matthew 6:24

Read the verse aloud.

Jesus says a person cannot serve two masters.

And He makes a direct contrast between God and mammon, meaning wealth or riches.

Church, listen carefully.

Jesus is not saying that everybody who has money is serving money.

He's telling us that money cannot be our master.

Money can be a useful servant.

But it's a terrible master.

When money becomes your master, you may be willing to compromise your convictions just to get more of it.

Jesus makes us choose where our ultimate loyalty belongs.

Stop Letting Worry Rule Your Life

Scripture — Matthew 6:25–34

Read the complete passage aloud.

Now church, imagine Jesus looking across that gathering.

There may be people worried about what they will eat.

People worried about what they will wear.

People worried about tomorrow.

And Jesus begins talking about birds.

He points His listeners toward the birds of the air and reminds them that their heavenly Father feeds them.

Then He turns their attention toward the flowers of the field.

Even Solomon, in all his glory, was not dressed like them.

Church, listen to the lesson.

If God cares for birds...

If God clothes the flowers...

How much more should His children trust their heavenly Father?

Jesus isn't teaching people to become lazy.

He's not telling them to stop working or planning.

He's teaching them not to live as prisoners of worry.

And He reminds them that the Father knows what they need.

Then Jesus gives one of the great priorities of the Christian life.

Matthew 6:33 — Read aloud.

Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness.

Now church, notice that word.

FIRST.

Not God somewhere on the list.

Not God when everything falls apart.

Not God after you've tried everything else.

God first.

And then Jesus addresses tomorrow.

Church, how many times have we spent today worrying about something that hasn't happened yet?

We worry about our bills.

Our children.

Our jobs.

Our health.

Our families.

Sometimes we're already worrying about next Tuesday, and we haven't even finished Friday!

Jesus reminds us that each day has enough trouble of its own.

Church, trust the Father with tomorrow.

But don't forget to walk with Him today.

PART SIX — BEFORE YOU LOOK AT SOMEBODY ELSE

Matthew 7:1–6

Now we've come into Matthew chapter 7.

And Jesus begins with a warning about judgment.

The Speck and the Beam

Scripture — Matthew 7:1–5

Read all five verses aloud.

Jesus warns us about the way we judge others.

And then He paints a picture that's almost funny when you imagine it.

One person has a little speck in their eye.

Another person walks over saying:

Let me help you get that out!

But the person offering help has a giant wooden beam sticking out of their own eye!

Church, can you imagine that?

Somebody who can barely see because of the beam in their eye is trying to correct somebody else's vision.

Jesus is exposing hypocrisy.

Before I become so quick to examine everybody else's life, I need to examine mine.

Before I talk about your attitude...

Let me check mine.

Before I talk about your sin...

Let me check my life.

Before I tell everybody what they need to fix...

Lord, show me what needs fixing in me.

But notice something.

Jesus doesn't say that after removing the beam, you can never help your brother.

He teaches that we must first deal honestly with ourselves so we can help others clearly.

This passage isn't a command to abandon discernment.

It's a warning against prideful, hypocritical judgment.

Handle Holy Things With Wisdom

Scripture — Matthew 7:6

Read the verse aloud.

Now Jesus speaks about giving holy things to dogs and pearls to swine.

This is a strong illustration about discernment.

Church, He is teaching that we need wisdom in how we handle what is sacred.

Not every argument is profitable.

Not every person is willing to receive correction.

And we should never treat God's truth carelessly.

But we must be careful not to use this passage as an excuse to call people worthless.

Every person is made in God's image.

Jesus is teaching spiritual wisdom, not permission to despise others.

PART SEVEN — KEEP ASKING, SEEKING, AND KNOCKING

Matthew 7:7–12

Now Jesus returns to prayer and our relationship with the Father.

Scripture — Matthew 7:7–11

Read all five verses aloud.

Jesus teaches His followers to ask, seek, and knock.

But then He gives a beautiful illustration.

He asks what father would give his son a stone when the child asks for bread.

Or a serpent when the child asks for a fish.

And He points to the goodness of our heavenly Father.

Church, do you see what Jesus is teaching?

We are not approaching a Father who is cruel.

We're approaching a Father who knows how to give good gifts.

But understand something.

Jesus is not saying that God must give us absolutely anything we demand.

Our heavenly Father knows what is good.

And sometimes what we want isn't what we need.

Sometimes we cannot see what God sees.

But we're still invited to pray.

To seek Him.

To trust Him.

So church...

Don't stop praying simply because you don't understand the answer.

Don't stop seeking God because things have become difficult.

Keep bringing your life before the Father.

He hears His children.

The Golden Rule

Scripture — Matthew 7:12

Read the verse aloud.

Now Jesus gives a command about how we treat one another.

Treat others the way you would want them to treat you.

Church, that sounds simple.

But think about how different our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities would be if everybody lived that way.

If you want respect, show respect.

If you want kindness, show kindness.

If you want people to be patient with you, be patient with them.

Jesus isn't teaching us to wait until people treat us right.

He's teaching us to take responsibility for how we treat them.

PART EIGHT — TWO ROADS

Matthew 7:13–14

Now something changes.

Jesus is approaching the end of His sermon.

And His words begin pressing His listeners toward a decision.

Scripture — Matthew 7:13–14

Read both verses aloud.

Jesus describes two gates.

Two ways.

One broad.

One narrow.

One leads to destruction.

The other leads to life.

Church, imagine standing on that mountain and hearing these words.

Jesus has taught about mercy.

He has taught about righteousness.

He has taught about prayer.

He has taught about loving enemies.

But now He tells His listeners that not every path leads to life.

Church, that means it matters what road we're traveling.

And just because a road is popular doesn't make it right.

Just because everybody is doing something doesn't mean we should follow them.

There are things that the whole world can approve of that still go against the Word of God.

Jesus calls us to enter by the narrow gate.

And that means following Him, even when the way isn't popular.

Now let me ask you something.

Everybody is walking somewhere.

But where is your road taking you?

PART NINE — CHECK THE FRUIT

Matthew 7:15–23

Now Jesus begins warning His listeners about something that can deceive them.

False prophets.

You Will Know Them by Their Fruit

Scripture — Matthew 7:15–20

Read the entire passage aloud.

Jesus warns that false prophets may come looking harmless while being dangerous within.

And then He uses another illustration from nature.

Trees and fruit.

He explains that good trees produce good fruit, while corrupt trees produce bad fruit.

Church, listen to what He's saying.

You don't identify an apple tree because somebody puts a sign on it saying:

APPLE TREE!

Eventually...

Apples need to show up!

And Jesus is warning His followers not to judge spiritual teachers merely by their appearances or claims.

Examine what they teach.

Examine what their lives produce.

Does their teaching agree with God's truth?

Do their actions reflect the righteousness they claim to represent?

Church, this also gives us something to examine in ourselves.

Anybody can carry a Bible.

Anybody can put on church clothes.

Anybody can say they're a Christian.

But what kind of fruit is growing in our lives?

Where is the mercy?

Where is the forgiveness?

Where is the love?

Where is the honesty?

Where is the obedience?

Lord, Lord — But Do You Know Him?

Scripture — Matthew 7:21–23

Read all three verses aloud.

Now church, Jesus says something that should cause every person to examine their heart.

He warns that not everyone who calls Him Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

He speaks about people who claim to have prophesied, cast out demons, and done wonderful works in His name.

But His response exposes a terrible reality.

Religious activity is not the same as a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.

Church, think about that.

A person can know religious language.

A person can know church routines.

A person can be recognized by other people.

But the real question is whether they belong to Christ and live in obedience to the Father.

We are not saved because we can make an impressive list of religious accomplishments.

We need Jesus Himself.

And true faith is not something that should remain only in our words.

It should be reflected in how we live.

Church, the question isn't simply:

Do people think I know Jesus?

The question is:

Do I truly belong to Him?

THE FINAL SCENE — THE STORM IS COMING

Matthew 7:24–29

Now imagine the mountain again.

Jesus has been teaching.

The crowd has been listening.

He's spoken about everything from the heart to the home.

From prayer to possessions.

From forgiveness to faithfulness.

And now He's approaching the end.

He chooses one final picture.

A house.

And a foundation.

Scripture — Matthew 7:24–27

Read all four verses aloud, slowly.

Jesus describes two builders.

One is wise.

The other is foolish.

Both hear His words.

But only one puts them into practice.

The wise man builds his house upon the rock.

The foolish man builds upon the sand.

Church, notice something.

Jesus doesn't say that the foolish man never heard the truth.

He heard it.

But he didn't obey it.

Now watch what happens.

The rain begins falling.

The floods come.

The wind starts blowing.

And the storm beats against both houses.

Both houses experience the storm.

The difference is the foundation.

Now church, I need you to hear this.

Being a Christian doesn't mean you'll never experience trouble.

Christians cry.

Christians hurt.

Christians lose loved ones.

Christians face sickness.

Christians experience disappointment.

Following Jesus does not mean the rain will never fall.

But the question is:

What are you standing on when the rain comes?

Picture the first house.

The rain is falling.

The wind is blowing.

The water is rising.

But the house does not fall.

Why?

Because it is founded on the rock.

Now picture the second house.

The same rain.

The same wind.

The same flood.

But this house collapses.

And its fall is great.

Church, do you understand what Jesus is teaching?

The difference isn't that one person heard the sermon and the other didn't.

They both heard.

The difference is that one person obeyed what he heard.

And the other didn't.

So church, let's remember everything Jesus has taught us on this mountain.

He said to be poor in spirit.

Have we recognized our need for God?

He said the merciful are blessed.

Are we showing mercy?

He said the pure in heart are blessed.

Are we examining our hearts?

He said we are salt and light.

Are our lives pointing people toward God?

He taught us about anger.

Are we still holding hatred?

He taught us about reconciliation.

Are there relationships where we need to make things right?

He taught us about lust and faithfulness.

Are we taking sin seriously?

He taught us about truthfulness.

Can people trust our words?

He taught us to love our enemies.

Are we praying for those who mistreat us?

He taught us about giving.

Are we giving to be seen, or giving from the heart?

He taught us about prayer.

Are we sincerely seeking the Father?

He taught us about forgiveness.

Are we extending mercy to others?

He taught us about fasting.

Are we seeking God, or trying to impress people?

He taught us about treasure.

Where is our heart?

He taught us about money.

Who is our master?

He taught us about worry.

Are we trusting our heavenly Father?

He taught us not to judge hypocritically.

Have we examined ourselves?

He taught us to ask, seek, and knock.

Are we still seeking the Father?

He taught us to treat others as we want to be treated.

Are we doing it?

He taught us about two roads.

Which one are we walking?

He taught us about good fruit.

What is our life producing?

He warned us that calling Him Lord is not the same as obeying the Father.

Are we merely religious, or are we truly following Christ?

And finally...

He teaches us about two houses.

Two builders.

Two foundations.

And one great difference.

Hearing His words.

And doing what He says.

Church, hearing a sermon doesn't automatically build your house on the rock.

Attending church doesn't automatically build your house on the rock.

Knowing Scripture is important.

But we must also live according to what Christ has taught.

And I want you to understand something.

We do not obey Jesus to prove that we can save ourselves.

We obey because He is Lord.

We need His grace.

We need His forgiveness.

We need His power to change our hearts.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of our salvation.

And His Word shows us how those who follow Him should live.

So church...

The storm is going to come.

I don't know what your storm will be.

I don't know when it will come.

But when the rain starts falling...

When the wind starts blowing...

When everything around you starts shaking...

You need a foundation that will hold.

And that foundation is Jesus Christ.

THE CROWD'S RESPONSE

Matthew 7:28–29

Church, now we're back where we started.

Back on that mountain.

The crowd has been listening.

And Jesus has come to the end of His teaching.

But don't rush past these last two verses.

Scripture — Matthew 7:28–29

Read both verses aloud.

Matthew tells us that when Jesus finished speaking, the people were astonished at His doctrine.

They were amazed at His teaching.

And Matthew tells us why.

Because He taught as one having authority.

Not like the scribes.

Church, think about that.

There was no modern microphone.

No sound system.

No bright lights.

No beautiful stage.

But the power of this sermon wasn't in the equipment.

It was in the authority of the One who was speaking.

Now, Scripture does not tell us exactly how many people were present or how every person heard His voice.

But Matthew tells us the people were astonished by what He taught.

They had heard a message unlike the teachings they were accustomed to hearing.

Because Jesus wasn't merely repeating human opinions.

He was teaching with authority.

And what did He leave them with?

Not simply something to admire.

Not simply something to remember.

But a way to live.

CLOSING — BEFORE WE WALK BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Church...

Before we walk back down this mountain, I want you to think about something.

When we first came up this mountain together, we came to hear what Jesus had to say.

We listened as He spoke to the poor in spirit.

We listened as He spoke to those who mourn.

We listened as He taught about mercy.

We listened as He taught about love.

We listened as He taught about prayer.

We listened as He taught about faith.

We listened as He taught about the heart.

We listened as He taught about the narrow road.

We listened as He taught about the two houses.

And now we have come to the end.

But just because Jesus has finished speaking doesn't mean our responsibility is finished.

Because now comes the question.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD?

Church, don't just leave this mountain talking about how wonderful the sermon was.

Leave determined to live what Jesus taught.

If you need to forgive somebody, seek God's help to forgive.

If you need to make something right, seek to make it right.

If you need to stop holding on to something sinful, bring it before the Lord.

If you've been putting everything before

God, put Him first.

If you've been worried about tomorrow, remember that your Father already knows what you need.

If you've been building your life on something that cannot last, come back to the true foundation.

Because Jesus didn't teach this sermon simply to fill people's ears with words.

He taught them how those who belong to His Kingdom should live.

And church...

One day the crowd came up a mountain to hear Jesus teach.

But today, through His Word, we have heard His teaching too.

So before we leave, ask yourself:

Am I poor in spirit?

Am I merciful?

Is my heart pure before God?

Am I shining my light?

Am I loving my enemies?

Am I forgiving others?

Am I seeking God's Kingdom first?

Am I walking the narrow road?

Am I producing good fruit?

And finally...

WHAT AM I BUILDING MY LIFE ON?

Because the question isn't whether you have heard the words of Jesus.

You've heard them.

The question is...

Will you only be a hearer?

Or will you become a doer?

Church, the mountain is behind us now.

The teaching has been given.

And the road is before us.

Now let us go down the mountain and live what Jesus taught us.

Amen.



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Terrell Powell's full preaching manuscript on the Sermon on the Mount — Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7, walked through in order, the way Jesus preached it on the mountain.

A SERMON BY TERRELL POWELL

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."
PSALM 119:105 — KJV

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