

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1905

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PART 12: THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR HEART

THE FOUNDATION

With four apostles in tow and a track record of divine healing, Jesus gathered them in front of a mountain and started to teach. A conservative estimate of the crowd would mark it in the thousands. How could so many people sitting hear the God-man's words without amplification?

It was a supernatural event where angels used some kind of invisible amplification equipment to project the audio waves of Jesus so that His words could be clearly heard by each person in attendance. **Matthew 5:1-2**

It is important to remember that there is a spirit world and a physical world. The Bible is chockfull of accounts of the spirit world intervening in the physical realm. A supernatural event in the physical world can be defined as when the spirit world intervenes in the natural.

The beatitudes are part of the core teaching of Christianity; they are diametrically opposed to the thinking of the world. Jesus gained the attention of the people through miracles and then laid down the foundation of what a Christian should be. **verses 3-12**

THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

When Jesus started to minister, He encountered a culture and mindset that needed correction. The people of Judea and Galilee still held the viewpoint of the Maccabees from some 200 years earlier. They held to the belief that the Messiah would have supernatural power, be a skillful military leader, and get rid of the Romans in a spectacular fashion.

People living in Judea and Jerusalem were politically involved. The Sadducees and the Pharisees had religious roots and sought political power, which included backroom deals, bribes, and even assassinations. The Herodians were purely political and strove to usher in an ancestor of Herod the Great.

The Essenes lived simple and pious lives based upon the Old Testament. They dwelt outside the cities in enclaves where they formed communes. They were not interested in politics; instead, they were waiting for the promised Messiah to set up a perfect kingdom for the Jewish people.

With this as a background, let's examine the doctrine of the Godhead as explained by Jesus.

SALT OF THE EARTH

The incarnated Son of God stated that we are the salt of the earth. **Matthew 5:13**



Salt is a preservative as well a taste enhancer. At the time of Jesus, salt came from evaporated sea water ponds. It also came in form of rock salt, from dried out sea beds, and salt mines. Salt was valued as a currency in the Middle East.

Salt was never sold in its pure form like today because greedy merchants mixed flour with the salt, causing it to be diluted and worthless. With this knowledge, we can understand the teaching of Jesus clearly. Christians lose their value when they compromise.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The light of the world. **verses 14-16**

UPHOLDING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jesus did not come as the Messiah to destroy the Mosaic Law (Torah, five books of Moses) or the writings of the major and minor prophets. As the Old Testament lawgiver, the Son of God prioritized obedience to the commandments and the prophetic writings. **verses 17-19**

BEING RIGHTEOUS

It was important to be more righteous than the scribes and Pharisees. **verse 20**

Jesus did not fully explain at this time how this was attainable, but He wanted people to be more righteous than the religious leaders of Israel. The prophet Isaiah stated that mankind's righteousness is like filthy rags. **Isaiah 64:6**

Jesus would later state that a person must be born again in order to be saved. **John 3:1-7**

To be born again, you must repent of your sins. **Romans 10:1-13**

No Christian can ever attain righteousness through good works or prayer. The righteousness of Christ is bestowed when you repent and turn from your sins. **Romans 3:10-28**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?