



FOLLOWING JESUS' TEACHING

When Jesus walked the earth with the apostles he taught the world how to live. The teaching did not comply with the secular view of 2000 years ago just like it does not conform to the secular view of today. The world in Jesus' time and today venerates death over life. Look at all of the killing and violence in the world today and in the Roman era.

The world today believes in killing unborn babies and starving to death those who are considered an inconvenience. The Romans and the legal community hold death over life dear.

Jesus taught the opposite and how we are to treat our fellow man. He taught kindness and love while the world teaches death and hate. It is not easy to live the way that Jesus taught because everywhere you turn you are being told that Jesus' teaching is not the way of the real world.

Look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:1-48

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise

FOLLOWING JESUS' TEACHING

pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should

perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

FOLLOWING JESUS' TEACHING

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Everyone of these precepts goes against what the world says is right.

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

Matthew Henry states:

The poor in spirit are happy. These bring their minds to their condition, when it is a low condition. They are humble and lowly in their own eyes. They see their want, bewail their guilt, and thirst after a Redeemer. The kingdom of grace is of such; the kingdom of glory is for them.

The world is telling you that the proud are the happy ones. The world tells you that the opposite of Jesus' teaching is true. Those who are humble before the Lord and the world are the ones who are really blessed.

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

Matthew Henry states:

Those that mourn are happy. That godly sor-

row which worketh true repentance, watchfulness, a humble mind, and continual dependence for acceptance on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, with constant seeking the Holy Spirit, to cleanse away the remaining evil, seems here to be intended. Heaven is the joy of our Lord; a mountain of joy, to which our way is through a vale of tears. Such mourners shall be comforted by their God.

The world feels sorry for those who mourn. The world teaches you that you are to be filled with joy all of the time. This is the opposite of Christ's teaching, for when Christ comforts you, your joy is full.

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

The world teaches you that the proud and the arrogant are the ones who inherit the earth. The world teaches that the meek are to be stepped on and crushed while they are in charge. Jesus' teaching that the meek will inherit the earth goes against everything that the world teaches.

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

Look at what the world is telling you on a daily basis that the wicked will be filled. For instance, Rita saw a help wanted ad this week for escorts with the pay of \$1,000.00 per night. This kind of wickedness is totally contrary to the teaching of Jesus. Here the world is telling you that wickedness will fill you.

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

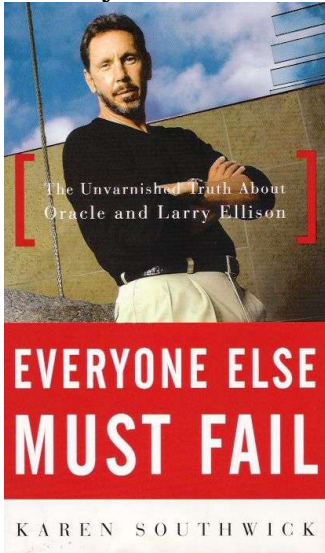
Matthew Henry explains:

The merciful are happy. We must not only bear our own afflictions patiently, but we must do all we can to help those who are in misery. We must have compassion on the souls of oth-

FOLLOWING JESUS' TEACHING

ers, and help them; pity those who are in sin, and seek to snatch them as brands out of the burning.

The world teaches that all others must fail. There is a book titled, "Everyone Else Must Fail" by Karen Southwick.



The leaders of the world's industry believe that to win you must make sure that everyone else fails. This holds true for the richest men in the world today. They have built their enterprises by stepping on everyone else.

As you go through each precept covered by Jesus on his famous ser-

mon on the mount, you will see that the world's view is contrary to the Lord's teaching.

Thus, trying to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ becomes very difficult. At work, you may be expected to lie for the company. The temptation to apply for a job offering \$1,000.00 a night might seem very enticing to a young woman. As the time draws closer to the rise of the antichrist, the rise of the wicked will increase.

Look at the news about the Street administration where there are people testifying that they were in fear of losing their jobs if they didn't go along with the plan. The FBI wire-taps have revealed that many in John Street's administration went along with whatever they were told to do. In the last days, it gets tougher and tougher to follow the Lord.

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Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
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