

# Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am Sermon on 7/02/2021

## Mini Series – “Making Disciples”

### Part 11 - Matthew 5 v 1-20 “The beauty of Christ seen in his people”

**Matthew 5:1-20** Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

All of us want to have lives that are beautiful, whether it is physical beauty or the inner beauty of a good character, or both. What is true beauty and how do we achieve it?

As you read Matthew's gospel, using it as a discipleship manual, you will see all that Jesus commands and how he lived it out. Matthew shows us how all that Jesus taught

and modelled in his life on earth culminates in the commands he gives us in the Great Commission. We see in action Jesus' authority, his baptism and his teaching. As we look at those three facets, we see the beauty of Jesus' life and

**as we follow Jesus in discipleship, so our lives will display the same beauty – the beauty of Jesus.**

### **1. Jesus' authority**

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks about his authority. We have seen that he has authority to forgive sins, to reveal God the Father to whom he chooses, and to give eternal life to those the Father gave him back in eternity. At the start of the gospel, Matthew shows that Jesus (Son of David, Son of Abraham) is the long promised Messiah. Through Jesus, not just Israel but all the nations will be blessed and come under his rule.

**He is God's King, the true David who will bring the nations into the blessing of becoming worshippers of the living God.**

Reading on into Matthew's account of the baby born in obscurity, who lived the bulk of his life in obscurity in a despised town called Nazareth, you may wonder if this could really be the Messiah who will bring the nations to worship him. It is not a promising start and yet Matthew shows us that even before Jesus (in his humanity) could speak, he brought the nations to worship him.

- The wise men who came from the East were Gentiles, representing the nations. They were brought to Jesus supernaturally, and when they saw him, though he was only a baby, they worshipped him. They recognised him as the king who has all authority in heaven and on earth, bringing all nations into submission under his rule and causing them to bow down and worship him.

When Jesus began his brief three year ministry on earth, Matthew records how he called his first disciples. (**Matthew 4:18-22** see p4). The call of Jesus has the authority to make people leave their work and family, without hesitation.

When Jesus tells us that he is the one who has all authority, not only in heaven but also on earth, and therefore we are to go and make disciples of all nations, he is not exaggerating. When we go to all the world and call people to leave their old life of sin and follow Jesus then behind that call is the authority of Jesus who causes:

- wise men from the East to bow down and worship him
- Fishermen to leave everything to serve him
- Roman centurions to trust him and crowds to follow him (**Matthew 8: 1-20** see p4)

**Though we are called to GO with the gospel, kingdom growth doesn't depend on our powers of persuasion but on the Lord Jesus Christ who is supernaturally at work in us to build his kingdom by his own authority.**

## **2. Jesus' baptism**

Jesus expects that his disciples will get baptised, and that the church will baptise them. (**Matt 3:13-17** see p4). John's baptism was a baptism for the repentance of sins, but Jesus was sinless, so why did he get baptised?

**Jesus has come on a mission to save sinful humanity and in his baptism, he is identifying with them.**

Jesus had every right to ask John to stand aside, and he could have named the sins of the crowds around him. Instead, he went down into the water with them, making himself one with us.

In calling people to follow Jesus, we aren't calling them to church structures and traditions. Rather we call them to find salvation from a Saviour who loves us enough to identify with us in our sin, truly taking our sin on himself. He secured our salvation by dying for us on the cross, satisfying the righteous wrath of God that stood against us, so that we could be forgiven by him and made right with God. What a wonderful privilege it is to call people to this!

**This is a message of love that holds true for eternal life of joy in the presence of God.**

## **3. Jesus' teaching**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shows us how to teach people to observe his commands. The crowds listened because he taught with authority (**Matt 7:28-29** see

p4). With his teaching, Jesus cuts across the traditional rabbinic teaching, which drew on flawed rabbinic traditions. He is speaking on his own authority, and has the right to do this (**vv17-18** above). Jesus says that he is coming to fulfil the Law, meaning that

**he is giving God's authoritative interpretation of the Old Testament scriptures.**

- The rabbis had sought to understand what the OT scriptures meant, and came up with additional manmade laws, which missed the point of God's law and often took its place.
- When Jesus teaches the people, he doesn't do away with God's law but clarifies what God had originally intended the law to mean. He is giving God's final commentary on what was required by God in the OT law, showing the principle behind it and how he will fulfil it all.

The rabbis had taught that only the physical act of murder or adultery was a sin.

- Jesus shows that actually the intentions of the heart are as important as the physical act and that God intends people to have a heart that is free of hate and free from impurity.

We would never have known this, or understood it, if Jesus had not come to the earth and taught us.

- All that was spoken by Moses and the prophets was given to them by Christ.
- Because Jesus is the eternal God, who gave the law in the first place, he can give fresh light on how to understand it without consulting anyone else on earth.

**Now with that same divine authority he is able to declare what the original intent of the law meant and how it would be worked out in the lives of new covenant believers.**

There are powerful implications for us in this:

- a) We must be careful to teach what Jesus taught in our discipleship programmes, as he commands us to do in the Great Commission.**

We are not asked to teach our ideas on religion, the traditions of the church or the philosophies of the age.

**All Christ commands us to do is to teach his words.**

When we do, those words come with an authority unlike any other teaching in the world. The Spirit takes hold of Christ's words and works in the lives of those who hear them to:

- Save them from sin and to convert them
- To make them more like Jesus and to cause them to become disciples of Jesus.

As God's people, we need to rediscover the wonder of the Bible as the authoritative word of Christ to us.

- We need to have confidence in Christ to do his authoritative work through his word.
- We need to go in that confidence, teaching what Christ taught and teaching obedience to all he taught.

**b) In these commands we see the beauty of Christ.**

In his obedience to the law, Jesus perfectly fulfils everything that the Old Testament law requires, including the original intent that he reveals in his teaching. All that he teaches about anger, lust, divorce, oaths, retaliation and love for enemies is all that he is. As examples:

- **Matt 5:27-28** (above) Jesus acted with perfect purity towards all the women in his life. Instead of lust, in his heart was love for his true bride, the church. That love caused him to offer up his life to death on a cross to secure her salvation and causes him to be patient with us, as he works to transform us into his perfect bride.

**The one who commands purity in the heart of his people is the one who loves his church, his bride, with a pure love from the heart.**

- As his disciples we are to follow him, loving our spouses, and the church (his bride) with a pure love from the heart.

**Matt 5:21-22** (above) Angry people are not people we want to be around. Jesus shows us how sinful it is to fly off the handle and vent our rage. In contrast, Jesus is patient with us and looks for ways of reconciliation, even at the expense of his own life.

- As his disciples, we are to follow him, showing patience and seeking reconciliation even if it costs us dearly.

We can be encouraged, because **what Christ commands, he gives**. This teaching of Jesus isn't just do as I say, or even do as I do, but **this is what I am doing in you**.

Christ is at work in us to form his own image in us so that the beauty we see in Christ will be seen in us, and will be our witness to the world. **Matt 5:13-16** (above).

**We need to see the beauty of Christ in his word, and then follow him into that lifestyle by the power of the Holy Spirit so that the world will see the beauty of Christ and glorify God.**

Please continue to read through Matthew's gospel this week, and as you do, pray that God will reveal the beauty of Christ to you, so that you will be captivated by him and bow before him in worship. Pray that you will be willing to follow him as the first disciples did.

**Matt 4:18-22** While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Matt 8: 1-27** When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> And behold, a leper<sup>[a]</sup> came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup> And Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."<sup>5</sup> When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, <sup>6</sup> "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." <sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." <sup>8</sup> But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant,<sup>[c]</sup> 'Do this,' and he does it." <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he marvelled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel<sup>[d]</sup> have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the

kingdom of heaven,<sup>12</sup> while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”<sup>13</sup> And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.<sup>14</sup> And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.<sup>15</sup> He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.<sup>16</sup> That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.<sup>17</sup> This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”<sup>18</sup> Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.<sup>19</sup> And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”<sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”<sup>21</sup> Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”<sup>22</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”<sup>23</sup> And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.<sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.<sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.”<sup>26</sup> And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.<sup>27</sup> And the men marvelled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

**Matt 3:13-17** <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son,<sup>[d]</sup> with whom I am well pleased.”

**Matt 7:28-29** And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.