

Sermon on the Mount Iii & Iv

by Stephen Kaung

Stephen Kaung's sermon emphasizes the importance of inner righteousness and a hidden life with God as central to the Christian faith.

Duration: 1:29:08

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-6, Matthew 6

Topics: "Kingdom Living", "Faith And Trust"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes how our Heavenly Father takes care of us, using the examples of birds and lilies. He highlights the preciousness of human beings in God's eyes and encourages the audience not to be anxious about material things. The preacher explains that the Sermon on the Mount describes the life of Jesus and his purpose to establish his kingdom on earth. He also discusses the story of the rich young man who struggled to let go of his wealth and emphasizes the importance of giving oneself totally to God.

Transcript

We will please turn to Matthew chapter 6. We'll begin with the first verse. Take heed not to do your righteousness before men to be seen of them. Otherwise you have received, you have no reward with your father who is in the heavens.

Take heed not to do your righteousness before men to be seen of them. Otherwise you have received, you have no reward with your father who is in the heavens. Therefore, when you do your righteousness, do not boast in front of men, like those who pretend to be good, in the hall and on the street.

On purpose you want to call people's glory, you want to get people's glory. I really tell you, they have already received their reward. But thou, when thou dost arms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand does.

So that thine arms may be in secret, and thy father who sees in secret will render it to thee. And when thou prayest, thou shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to pray, standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, so that they shall appear to men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy father who is in secret, and thy father who sees in secret will render it to thee. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy

Lord, we confess that we are far from what Thou want us to be. And yet, we want to tell Thee that we are willing. May Thy Holy Spirit work within us.

And bring us to the place where Thou art. May Thy will be done in us as it is in heaven. And we will give Thee all the glory.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. We do thank the Lord for gathering us together this morning.

We have been sharing together on the so-called Sermon on the Mount. We know that the Sermon on the Mount is spoken by our Lord to His own disciples. To those who have not only believed in Him, but have also answered His call, and have given themselves to the Lord, allow the Lord to teach them, to transform them, and to conform them to His own image.

So we say the Sermon on the Mount is not giving us a new law for us to keep. The Sermon on the Mount is of grace. Our Lord has first given His life to us.

And then He begins to tell us what that life is. The Sermon on the Mount actually is a description of the life of our Lord Jesus. He is the heavenly man.

Who has come upon this earth. And He lives a heavenly life upon the earth. He comes to set up His kingdom upon this earth.

He is drawing a people unto Himself. And to transform them as He is. And these will be His kingdom.

And these were the people of the kingdom of the heavens. They are the sons of the kingdom of the heavens. So we do praise and thank the Lord.

He is not trying to impose upon us a heavy burden. As if He is setting up a very high standard. And then He said, try to arrive at it.

Instead of that, You find He gives us His own life. And He is telling us how glorious, how powerful is that life. If we only allow His life to live out through us.

That will be the way that we will live. So it is a matter of grace. It is a matter of life.

It is a matter of the growing of life. And that is what the Sermon on the Mount is all about. The Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes.

Pour forth our hearts before Him. Then our Lord Jesus tells us about our relationship to ourselves. And that is fasting.

Now what is fasting? In the scripture we are told fasting is to afflict our soul. In other words, we have such a burden. Or we are facing with such a crisis.

And we deny ourselves to the extent of giving up our legitimate food. So that we may concentrate on praying before the Lord. So it is afflicting our soul.

It is between us and the Lord. It is not for people to see. You know the Pharisees when they fast, they purposely put on a mask a fashion.

Telling people, see, I'm fasting. And people would praise them and say, wow, how pious they are. The Lord said, don't do that.

When you fast, wash your face. Comb your hair. Because you are fasting before the Lord.

And the Lord in secret, He will see it. And He will answer your prayer. So here you find that section is a hidden life.

We need to have a hidden life before the Lord. We live for God. And our motive is pure.

Our heart is in Heaven. Then the Lord began to continue with the second part. The second part on this matter of the life of faith.

Now kingdom life is a life of faith. Often times we think only a very few chosen people, they should live a life of faith. But brothers and sisters, this is a misunderstanding.

According to the word of God, every believer, every disciple of the Lord, every son of the kingdom lives a life of faith. Why? Because God has already called us out of this world. He has translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His Lord.

So far as the world is concerned, we who live in this world, we are strangers and sojourners. We are just passing through. So when we are passing through this world, we are aliens so far as the world is concerned.

Like Abraham, his sojourn is the land of promise. And he lived in tents. In other words, you find he realized that he does not belong to this world.

He lived in tent. It is only temporarily. He is just passing through.

He is looking for that city with foundation. Whose architect and constructor is God. Now this is a life of faith.

So every believer lives a life of faith. We are not earth dwellers. We are heavenly people passing through this world.

Now for such people, the only way to live is to live a life of faith. So dear brothers and sisters, let us correct our concept. It is not that only a chosen few they live a life of faith.

They have no other business. No other occupation. And they just look to God to supply all their needs.

They live a life of faith. But we, we have our own occupation. We supply our own needs.

We do not need to live a life of faith. Brothers and sisters, this is wrong. Every believer, every one of us here live a life of faith.

Why? Because we are a heavenly people. Our heart is in heaven. So to live a life of faith, you begin with do not lay your treasures upon the earth.

Now, what is the treasure? In the original, the treasure is treasures, plural number. Lots of treasures. Sometimes we think that treasure is money.

So sometimes we interpret this verse and say now, lay not your money on this earth. Because there is the moth, there is the rust and there are thieves. But actually, what is it here? It is more than money.

But actually, treasure includes everything that you love. Everything that you depend on. Everything that you trust in.

Everything that means life to you. Now, it can be money. It can be fame.

It can be position. Or it can be people. Maybe your grandson is your treasure.

He is your life. Brothers and sisters, if we lay our treasures to ourselves upon this earth. You know what will happen? You find your heart is where your treasure is.

You are being bound by your treasure. And because of this, you find your heart, instead of being in heaven, your heart is on earth. So the emphasis is not the treasure.

The emphasis is on the heart. Dear brothers and sisters, God wants our heart. In Proverbs, you find it says, my son, give me your heart.

And then, you will delight in my ways. Why is it that we do not take delight in God's ways? It is because our heart is somewhere else. If our heart is given to the Lord, then our eyes will delight His ways.

So what the Lord really wants is our heart. Where your heart is, is where your treasure is. So, it is for this reason that God commands us to lay our treasures in heaven.

That is to say, we offer what we consider as treasures to God. Just like Abraham. He offers only son Isaac to God.

Because that is his treasure. And he is willing to offer it to God. And because he did that, you find he looked for the cities with foundation.

He was not being tied down by anything on this earth. Brothers and sisters, when we hear this word, do you find it very difficult? Ah, the Lord wants all my money. If I give up all my money, how can I live? Don't worry about that.

This is not what the Lord is after. The Lord is trying to deliver you from anything that ties you down. The Lord wants you to give yourself totally to him.

Your heart is in heaven. Your heart is with God. And that is what God is really after.

Now, how God will do with your treasures? It's up to him. You remember that rich young man? He came to the Lord with such sincerity. Good master.

What can I do to inherit eternal life? The Lord look at him. The Lord love him. The Lord said, keep the commandments.

What commandments? Honor your parents. And so and so forth. And the young man said, I keep them from my youth.

He keep the letter of the word. And yet he violate the spirit of it. Because he is very rich.

His riches has captured his heart. The Lord want to deliver him. So the Lord said, sell all you have.

Give to the poor. Then come and follow me. He couldn't do that.

By himself he cannot do it. But then immediately follow him. There is another rich man.

He is an older man. He is probably more richer than this young man. That cares.

The tax collector. And yet you find, when the grace of God comes upon him, without being asked, he said, I will give half to the poor. Whatever I have done wrong, I will pay for it.

That's grace. So brothers and sisters, do not be afraid. Just give your all to the Lord.

Lay it up in heaven. And then, you are a steward. Do whatever the Lord wants you to do.

For instance, you remember the story of C.T. Studd. He is one of the seven missionaries from Cambridge that come to China. He was a millionaire.

But he was led by the Lord to give up everything he had. And he came to China. Later on to India.

And finally to Africa. God greatly used him. Another person that I know of, Lady Ogle.

When I met her, she was a millionaire. But she lived for God. She said, all mine is the Lord's.

I'm only a steward. Dear brothers and sisters, that's what we are. Whatever the Lord has given to us, is His.

It's up to Him to decide. But thank God. His grace is always sufficient.

So do not try to lay a treasure for yourself upon this earth. Now, by the way, I may put in a few more practical words. Do you mean to say that I have to give everything to the Lord and not provide for my family? Certainly not.

Because the Bible tells us very clearly that we should provide for our family. Does it mean to say that you cannot put aside something for your retirement? Certainly not. The Lord does not want you to depend upon people's charity.

Because that does not glorify God. And does it mean to say because of that so I don't need to work anymore? Certainly not. If you do not work, you do not eat.

That is the Scripture teaching. But dear brothers and sisters, remember it is the heart that we may be single-eyed and not double-minded. You know, our problem is we are double-minded.

We love God and we love mammon. Mammon is wealth. It may be represented by money.

Or it may be represented by other things. And we try to serve two masters. It is impossible.

A man cannot serve two masters. You either love the one or hate the other. You either hold on to the one or let go of the other.

The Lord makes it very clear to us. A man cannot serve two masters. Dear brothers and sisters, what are we going to do with mammon? Mammon should not be our master.

Mammon should be our servant. We should use the unrighteous mammon to prepare our eternal life. That is the way it should be.

And that will release us so that our heart may be in heaven. And of course, it will follow for this cause. For this cause, I say unto you, do not be careful about your life.

What you should eat and what you should drink and nor for your body, what you should put on. It is not a life more than food and a body than raiment. Now, why do we worry about eat and drink and raiment? Because our heart, our treasures, are not in heaven.

The more you hold on to your treasures, the more you will worry about what you eat, what you drink and what you will be close with. There is no end to your anxiety. The more treasure you have laid up for yourself, the more the worrier you become.

But if you lay your treasures up in heaven and your heart is with God, then you do not need to worry what you eat, what you drink and what you will be close with. Why? The Lord said, Look at the birds. This look is not just catch a glance.

It is intense looking. You look at the birds. How our Heavenly Father takes care of them.

How much more precious you are than the birds. Consider carefully the lilies of the valley. How beautiful, how glorious the Lord has clothed.

More than the glory of Solomon. He is here today, tomorrow he is thrown into the fire. And God gave them such clothing.

How much more you are than the lilies. Do not be anxious about these things. Your Heavenly Father knows it.

Brothers and sisters, when your heart is in heaven, then you know your Heavenly Father knows everything. You can trust him. You can trust him.

So the Lord said, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. And all these things shall be added unto you. Brothers and sisters, this is the way we shall live.

We shall seek the Kingdom of God. We shall seek His righteousness. Now if we do seek, all these things shall be added unto you.

If we do not seek the Kingdom of the Heavens and His righteousness, well, we have to seek all these things ourselves. And we will be anxious about them. So, dear brothers and sisters, what is living in the Kingdom of the Heavens? What is the Kingdom life like? The Kingdom life within us is a life that lives in Heaven.

Even though our body is on earth. So may the Lord help us. Let us pray.

Dear Lord, we want to thank Thee. Because Thy words are not law. Thy words are grace.

We praise and thank Thee Thou has already given us that life. And that life is in us. And Thou are going to draw out that life.

That it may glorify Thy name. Lord, we want to ask Thee that Thou will continue to teach us. That we may really live out that life for Thy glory.

We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.

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