

1/14/2024—Matthew 4:17; Ephesians 2:8-10— The Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount

I. What is the Gospel?

- a. The core of the gospel—*1 Cor. 15:1-4*
- b. The fullness of the gospel: “Offering a bold and beautiful vision of human life that’s going to display God’s kingdom” Tim Mackie from The Bible Project

II. Gospel of Grace and works

- a. *Ephesians 2:8-10*—gospel of grace never intended to say works do not matter; but puts works in its proper perspective.

III. The starting point for grace

- a. All you need is need—not self-reliance for our morality

IV. The gospel in the Sermon on the Mount

- a. Beatitudes point towards practical life in this ‘bold and beautiful vision of human life’
- b. Beatitudes point to one who is not self-sufficient, but recognizes one’s utter need for God (both materially and spiritually).
- c. Jesus places himself within God’s story and plan as the fulfillment of the law and mentions a new kind of righteousness even greater than that of the religious leaders
- d. Jesus’ teachings on this type of righteousness is not just religious legalism but get to the heart of the matter, forcing one to always look at his heart and how that affects his actions
- e. Jesus points to a completion of the story of this world where God’s kingdom is here on earth as it is in heaven; our focus in this world is on this eternal kingdom, entering the narrow gate and seeking to store up ‘treasures in heaven.’

V. Why does this even matter?

- a. Some have tried to pit the message of Jesus against the letters in the gospel of Paul...this may be both a misunderstanding of Jesus’ emphasis on works, but also Paul’s emphasis on grace (Paul also greatly valued works); there is incredible consistency between Jesus’ teachings and the apostle Paul’s.
- b. There is a beautiful tension between works and grace
- c. Grace gives us the foundational motivation for why we are to live as Jesus calls us; humility is at the center of our actions because we have not earned anything
- d. There is assurance when we fall short that we are still loved and held by God
- e. The gospel reminds us we are incapable of living out Christ’s bold new vision of humanity without His empowerment