

Joy in the Lord Part 1: Your Rightful Possession of Joy

February 5, 2023

Matthew 5:1-2

Importance of Joy: joy and rejoicing are woven together in the NT. Joy/rejoicing mentioned 140x in the NT. Sentiment vs Joy. Joy is based upon a theological foundation and grows throughout our lives. Sentiment is based in emotion, is not permanent, doesn't lead to maturity, and more emotion is always needed. Joy is lasting and is a settled confidence in the sovereignty of God which transcends situational happiness and not based upon circumstances.

What is the significance of the Sermon on the Mount (SOTM)? Matt. 4:23-25, people are coming from all over being healed and hearing Jesus' teaching. Jesus teaching this sermon parallels Moses on Sinai. The life of Jesus and Moses are similar and would be recognizable to the Jews (Mountain ministry, Egypt, slaughter of children, prophet). Jesus fulfills Moses' prophecy in Deut. 18:15-19, that God would raise up a Prophet like Moses from their brethren. Jesus is taking His place as the new Moses here on the SOTM.

>>**Theme of the SOTM: Demonstrating True Righteousness,** Matt. 5:20 (righteousness), 7:12 (act righteously). It is possible to act righteously through the divine power of the Holy Spirit.

How do you approach the Sermon on the Mount? Jesus talks about OT commands, but He adds new commands as well. The old is winding down and the new covenant of Jesus' is coming in, establishing the Law of Christ. There are many approaches to interpreting the SOTM here are 8 of the major approaches.

- 1) **Soteriological:** predominant view of things to do to enter the kingdom-but that is works based.
- 2) **Sociological:** gives ethics necessary to make everyone act properly to make it a better world, the SOTM will be dispersed to the world until everyone follows Jesus' teachings.
- 3) **Penitential:** much like the Law of Moses pointing out sin and pushing everyone towards a savior, driving lost to salvation, but the entire Bible does that so that isn't a good approach.
- 4) **Ecclesiastical:** (church) Jesus was teaching something for the church age in the coming years after He was risen. The first mention of a future "church" body is Matt. 16:18. In the SOTM the church isn't mentioned, and the blessings of the teaching are immediate.
- 5) **Interim:** specifically, spiritual and moral guidance for the apostles for as long as they mistakenly believed that Christ was going to return in their lifetime and the SOTM no longer applied after the last apostle died, there is no proof for that view.
- 6) **Kingdom Ethic:** represent the ideal goal for all believers of all ages but won't be realized until the kingdom comes. The SOTM must be real to those who listen to the message.
- 7) **Futurist:** the SOTM contains the law that will rule the millennial kingdom for the future, it is not for today, but it isn't the primary approach and robs its relevance. The last beatitude involves persecution which won't be present when the kingdom comes, so it must be for today.
- 8) **Historical:** directly related to the disciples, the true followers of Christ, at the moment in history that they hear it and it moves forward from there. The SOTM helps the believer know how to live righteously and describe the works that follow a believer.
- 9) **Historical New Covenant (NC) Law of Christ:** Jesus establishes He is the law giver of the NC. This is a massive transition from the OT to the NC. 1 Cor. 9:20-21 describes how Paul shows those under the law of Moses how to become Christians. To Gentiles, Paul accepts the OT has been fulfilled in Christ and now the believer is under the Law of Christ. They are free to obey John 14:15 to keep Jesus' commandments and teach every disciples all that Jesus commanded, Matt. 28:19-20. Two important ideas: OT saints are saved by faith; they demonstrated their faith by keeping the Law. NT believers are saved by faith, we demonstrate faith by keeping the Law of Christ.

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The SOTM is the opening salvo of the Law of Christ. In 5:17, Christ will fulfill the Law from the OT. In 5:18, He is the prophet referred to in the Torah, and will fulfill every little detail in the Law. What are the commandments of V19? These are the commandments that Christ gave that corrects the abuses of the OT Law by the Jewish leaders and the "I say," commandments that Christ gave.

Why is the Audience Important? The SOTM is not purely evangelistic, nor given to a group all made up of believers. "Disciples" can be a general term for "followers". Jesus does tell us that there are the multitudes (V1) and disciples (V1). Both groups are present. Jesus preaches to the saved (V3, 13, 14) and warnings to the unsaved (5:20, 7:13, 19, 21, 26-27). The message is preached to a mixed crowd and concluded with a choice in 7:24-27. The SOTM is glorious for believer and supremely evangelistic- it can be lived and shared.

What are the Beatitudes? It is a technical term for "blessed ones." They are accurate descriptions of the redeemed, V3 (theirs is the kingdom of heaven), V8 (see God), V9 (called sons of God), V10 (theirs in the kingdom), V12 (great reward in heaven). They are blessings in the life of a believer.

What Does it Mean to be Blessed: to be favored, to be a privileged recipient of God's favor, Luke 14:15, Rom. 4:7, Jam. 1:12, 1 Pet. 3:14. Every beatitude is associated with joy and rejoicing in the NT.

Further Discussion and Application

The life of a believer is marked by confidence in their salvation, confidence in Christ's sacrifice to forgive and wash away every sin, and confidence to know and understand the commands of Jesus. How does knowing these truths produce joy in our lives? How come we can have this joy?

Read 1 John 3:1-3. This passage tells us that this hope we have in Christ leads us to purify ourselves. Identify the areas that we need to purify ourselves from the following passages in 1 John: 1:5-10, 2:3-5, 2:8-11, 2:15-17, 2:18-23, 2:24-27, 3:4-9, 3:10-15, 3:16-24, 4:17-19, 5:1-5, and 5:21.

How can we have greater joy in the Lord and in our walk with Him? How does keeping and obeying His commandments give us peace and confidence in Him and our salvation? What does a believer look like and how would someone know if you are a believer in Christ?