

Matthew 5: The Character & Accountability of Israel**Summary:**

We will go through Jesus teachings very in depth, as this is our whole purpose for studying the word, to understand his teachings and follow them.

Verse	Summary
1	At the end of Chapter 4 of Matthew, people from all over Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem Judea, and across the Jordan River were following Jesus. In Matthew 5 Jesus separates himself from the multitudes, then he went up onto a mountain or hill. His disciples went to meet him and he began to teach the disciples.
3	The first thing he taught them was about who they were and the destiny of persons with certain types of spirits or character qualities. He said those poor in spirit are blessed, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
4-5	Those who mourn will be comforted and those with a meek or gentle spirit will inherit the earth.
6-7	He tells the disciples those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled with it and the merciful will obtain mercy.
8-9	He goes on to explain that the pure in heart will see God and peacemakers will be called children of God.
10	He says the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.
11-12	He says those who are mistreated, lied on, and persecuted for him are blessed and have a great reward in heaven. He says these should be glad because their reward is great and they share the same fate as prophets that came before them.
13	He tells the disciples that they are the salt of the earth, the flavor of the world, and when they are gone, there is nothing remaining to be saved.
14-15	Jesus tells them that they are the light of the world and a compares them to a city located on a hill, which cannot be hidden. He goes on to say, not even a man would light a candle, than hide it, rather he would place it on a candlestick, so that it may give light to the house.
16	He tells the disciples to let their lights shine before men so that they will see their goodness and glorify the Father, which is in heaven.
17-18	The next thing Yeshua teaches the disciples about is his purpose. He says he did not come to do away with the law or the prophets, but to fulfill both. He says the whole law will remain in effect until heaven and earth has passed away.
19	He warns that whoever breaks the least of the commandments or teach others to do so, will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. He says whoever does and teach them will be called the greatest in the kingdom.
20	Jesus says that one must be more righteous than the scribes and Pharisees (scripture scholars and religious leaders) in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven.
21-22	He goes on to talk about the ten commandments and sets a greater expectation for a sinless and blameless life. Touching on murder, he says being angry with your brother

	or sister without cause holds the same penalty as murder and calling them Raca, which means mindless, is in danger of council. But he says if you call them a fool, which is the same as “godless” or the act of calling a brother or sister foolish for being what God created them to be, you are in danger of hellfire.
23-24	Jesus explains that if a person has discourse with their brothers or sisters they must first be reconciled with them before offering up anything to God.
25-26	Jesus warns his followers to agree with their adversary quickly, while they are still in good standing with them, otherwise their adversary will create hardship for them and they will not be pardoned by the adversary, but will serve every moment of hardship.
27-28	He talks about adultery and says not only is the act of adultery unrighteousness, but even looking at another man or women with lust is adultery.
29-30	Jesus descriptively explains that if something or someone causes you to sin, separate yourself from it or them to avoid hell. He says its best to be separate from the cause of your sin, thin for you to be cast into hell with those things that cause you to sin.
31-32	He says that divorce, except for the cause of adultery, is unrighteousness and that any man who divorces his wife causes her to commit adultery and any man who remarries her also commits adultery.
33-37	Jesus teaches that swearing is unrighteousness and rather than swearing we should say yes or no, because anything more than that is opportunity for evil to enter in.
38-41	He says that rather than giving evil for evil, repay evil with righteousness.
42	When someone asks for help, do it and if someone asks to borrow do not turn them away.
43-45	Bless your enemies and pray for those that use and persecute you, that you may be like the Father, who provides for the good and the evil.
46-47	There is no reward in only loving those that love you, everyone does that, but you are called to be extraordinary and supernatural and love those who hate you.
48	His last charge in chapter 5 is for his followers to be as perfect as their Father in heaven.

Instructions: Read Matthew Chapter 5 in the King James Version and answer the questions below.

1. What are some deeper ideas and themes you notice about the story in Matthew 5?
2. Does anything speak to you?

Insights:

Instructions: Take a second look at each of these events in Matthew 5 and find the lessons hidden within each event.

In Chapter 5, Yeshua is outright saying, “Look, this is who you are, this is who I am, and this is what must be done. There is no mystery to this chapter, except in his audience.

Notice that Yeshua did not teach when the multitudes were present, but only to the 12 disciples, who he considered the lost sheep of the house of Israel. This becomes clearer in

the next chapters of Matthew, when Jesus makes it clear that he has been sent only for Israel and no one else. (Matthew 15:24) For now, understand that he was not only talking to the 12 disciples, but to the 12 tribes of Israel, whom the disciples represent.

In verses 3 through 12, where Yeshua discloses those who are blessed, how they are blessed, and why they are blessed. He is accomplishing a few things here. He is describing the character of his audience. In other words, those who fit these descriptions are those whom he is communicating to. He is also showing us that each person will receive what they lack on earth in the kingdom of heaven.

Now, what you will also learn later is that the kingdom of heaven is not some place in the sky, but it is something within Israel, which is you. (Luke 17:21) So when will we receive our reward?

Good question and there is a simple answer! If we attain the fullness of the kingdom on earth, we will receive our reward while on earth and in eternity. If we do not attain the fullness of the kingdom within us while on earth, we will receive it in eternity, but not on earth.

After he explains the character of his audience and their fate and rewards, he tells them who they are in the grand scheme of the world. In verses 13 through 16, Yeshua says that his audience is the salt of the earth, but if they lose their flavor, they are useless and will be cast out and walked on.

He also says that they are the light of the world, which cannot be hidden. In verse 15, Yeshua is explaining that we are God's candle, which he would not hide, but placed on a candlestick to give light to the whole house.

After this, Jesus tells us what his purpose is. He says that it is to fulfill the law and the prophets. What does this mean? Through him, we are to become capable of obedience to the law and prophecy.

He goes on to explain that because we have him, we are held to even higher standards. He says that we are to be as perfect as our Father and tells us exactly how to do that.

Yeshua says whoever breaks even the least of the commandment or teach others to do so will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven and whoever obeys them and teach them will be called the greatest.

He says that we must be more righteous than the biblical scholars and religious leaders, of his day and ours, to even enter the kingdom of heaven.

Insights for Application to Life:

- *Broken Relationships:* To hate our brother or sister, that is our own people (black people), is as bad as killing someone and opens us up to the danger of judgement. (Mat 5:21-22)

- To call one of God's children a fool, is to criticize God's will for their life and is worthy of hell. (Mat 5:22)
- You must mend relationships with your people before you can offer anything to God. (Mat 5:23-24)
- *Dealing with the adversary*: Be wise, when the adversary has power over you to imprison you, don't argue with him, but stay in his favor or else you will endure the adversary's punishment and he will have no pity or mercy on you. (Mat 25:26)
- *Adultery*: You commit adultery the moment you lust. (Mat 27:28)
- *Overcoming Sin*: Separate yourself from the things that cause you to walk in unrighteousness, or else you might be cast into hell with those things. (Mat 5:29-30)
- *Marriage/Divorce*: Divorce is only permitted when the cause is adultery. If divorce occurs for any other reason, the husband causes the wife to commit adultery and anyone she marries also commits adultery. (Mat 31-32)
- *Communications*: Do not swear by anything or try to prove yourself to anyone, but let your yes be yes and no be no. (Mat 5:33-37)
- Fight evil with righteousness. (Mat 5:38-40)
- *How to Treat Others*: Go above and beyond to help someone who asks for it, give what others ask for, and don't turn them away when they ask to borrow. (Mat 5:41-42)
- *Love*: Love your neighbors and your enemies, bless those that curse you, do good to those that hate you, and pray for those that use and persecute you. (Mat 5:43-44)
- *Why we must do all this 'difficult' stuff?* So that we can be children of our Father in heaven. To be his children we must make ourselves like him. He makes the sun rise and set on the good and the evil and the good and the evil receives rain; therefore, we must treat others like God treats them, in order to be considered His children. (Mat 5:45)
- Every person in the world is capable of loving those who love them, but to be a supernatural child of God, we must go beyond that. We must love those who hate us to be considered perfect. (Mat 5:46-47)
- *What's the point of it all?* We must be as perfect as our Father in heaven, in order to completely receive him and become like Christ. This is our calling and purpose as God's children, Israel. (Matthew 5:48)

Deep Thought:

1. If this list of requirements Jesus listed in chapter 5 was a test. What would you score?
100% 85% 65% 50% 33% 0%
2. Are you afraid of being like your Father in heaven and like Christ? Yes or No
3. Are you ready to learn to become like Christ? Yes or No
4. What are some things you have to work on to become "Chapter 5 type righteousness"? _____

Final Thoughts:

Jesus is your example of who you are, how you should be, what you should do, and your God-power. Take the time to learn what he is teaching and live it!

P.S. If you have questions, ask. If you don't have questions than share what you've learned in the discussion group so you can help others to understand.