

Introduction:

1. Don't be like them, Leviticus 18:1-6, Deuteronomy 18:9-13, Joshua 23:6-13.
2. Fear God, Deuteronomy 10:20-21!
3. We are not to be like the world, 1 Corinthians 15:33-34; John 18:36; Colossians 1:13. We follow our king! Jesus taught, "Don't be like the Pharisees, scribes (arrogant, pride, hypocrites, who wanted to be noticed). Our study this morning is from the Sermon on the Mount. It tells us who we are to be and not be! It's simple and deep. It creates a lot of emotions depending on your heart. It helps many come to Jesus and drives many away.
4. We live in a world that promotes celebrities, social influencers, politicians, and watered-down Christianity, etc. Jesus says, "Don't be like them!" Live the way I instruct.

The Lesson:

I. Poor in Spirit, Matthew 5:3

- A. Verse 1: Like the disciples, we must come to Jesus to listen who we are supposed to be.
 1. Verse 2: His teaching is where we get our instructions.
 2. Verse 3: We are to be poor in spirit! We're blessed when we do. We receive the kingdom.
 - a. This sets the tone for the rest of the sermon. What is poor in spirit?
 3. It's the opposite of Pharaoh in Exodus 5:2.
 - a. Pharaoh was stubborn, disobedient, lacked awareness of God, and his need for Him.
 - b. It's the opposite of many of the Pharisees that Jesus would attack in this sermon.
 - (1) They often trusted in themselves, Luke 18:9.
 - (2) They failed to see their need for God and His righteousness, Luke 18:10.
 - (3) Their attitude about themselves toward God was often arrogance.
 4. A great example of poor in spirit is the tax collector of all people, Luke 18:13-14.
 - a. A man who recognized his sins, his need for God's mercy and forgiveness.
 - b. "Poor" is the idea to crouch. "One who is forced to crouch in poverty. One who crouched as they begged for assistance." Poor in this verse is spiritual poverty.
 - c. "Jesus is looking for crouched beggars to bless! Those who know they need His mercy, His grace, and forgiveness!"
 - d. "His attitude toward himself in the presence of God." Paul Earnhart.
- B. Jesus says we are to be poor in spirit. This is different than what many others advocate.
 1. Don't be like the Pharisees. Surpass their righteousness, Matthew 23:27-28.
 2. Don't be like the world: "Blessed are the rich and famous, politicians, the beautiful."
 3. Don't be like the rich young ruler had, Mark 10:17-22.
 4. Will it be the kind of heart we have? This is who I want you to be, Psalms 131:1-3.

II. **Honest, Matthew 6:33-37**

- A. Jesus attacked the Pharisees and their deceptive hearts with the use of their oaths.
 - 1. There's a reason why Jesus would say, "Don't take an oath, by heaven or earth, or by your head, but rather let your "Yes" be "Yes" and your "No" be "No."
 - 2. It's confusing to us but would be clear to the audience. He attacked what had been taught and the hearts of the Pharisees. Kingdom citizens are not to be like the Pharisees.
 - 3. The Old Testament did not force an Israelite to swear/oath. But if they did...
 - a. They were to keep their word, Numbers 30:2.
 - b. It was to be done in God's name, Deuteronomy 6:13.
 - c. They were to be honest, Leviticus 19:12.
 - 4. But the Pharisees were not always truthful. They were often deceptive in their oaths.
 - 5. If they didn't swear by God, "Unto the Lord" they could get out of their oath.
 - 6. Only if they swore by God must they keep it. They were deceptive, Matthew 23:16-22.
- B. What Jesus is attacking is not whether can swear under oath in court, but rather deception!
 - 1. Can one make an oath? Yes. Jesus did, Matthew 26:63-64; 2 Corinthians 1:23.
 - 2. "One is not compelled to swear, but to compelled to speak the truth." Paul Earnhart.
 - 3. We need to be truthful, Proverbs 6:12, Titus 2:1; John 16:13.
 - 4. Let's be quick to hear and slow to speak, James 1:21-25. Let's be careful with words.

III. **Worry Free, Matthew 6:24-34**

- A. When we're devoted to God, laying up treasures in heaven, He will provide, Matthew 6:8.
 - 1. Our treasures are to be laid up in heaven, Matthew 6:19-24. The parallel account in Luke 12:32-34, gives us a good practical way of seeing where our treasures and trust is in our wealth or in God. We should be givers with our treasures on earth. God will provide.
 - 2. We are not to be distracted by the cares of the world, 2 Corinthians 11:28-29.
 - 3. When we are, it demonstrates a faith issue.
- B. Jesus says, "Don't be like the Gentiles who eagerly seek after these things."
 - 1. This is how people without God live, without faith live. They have lives full of worry!
 - 2. They don't seek the kingdom, Matthew 6:33. They don't turn to God for their needs, Matthew 6:7-8. Don't be like them! Be different. Put your energy on seeking God instead of worry.
 - 3. How? Prayer, Matthew 6:9-14. Ask. Prayers centered on the kingdom.

Conclusion:

- 1. Jesus tells us who we are to be! He wants to rule in our hearts.
- 2. Will we let Him? Or will we be like the world who reject Him? Don't be like them.