A Note from Pastor Russ

Understanding the “Sermon on the Mount”

Jesus addresses the Sermon on the Mount to his disciples, and his primary audience is therefore comprised of those who already believe the Good News. Jesus assumes they’re already practicing Christian disciplines. “When you pray,” “When you fast,” “When you give” pepper his instructions. Jesus offers directions for kingdom living, not for kingdom access. He does not say, “Do these things and you will earn the kingdom of heaven,” but, “Do these things because these reflect the ethic of the kingdom to which you belong by faith.” If, therefore, you are a disciple of Jesus by faith, Jesus shows you the heart attributes and practices and lifestyle that ought to characterize you as you walk in and for him.

But Jesus also speaks for a secondary audience, the “crowds,” who overhear his teaching, and who stand amazed at the authority with which he speaks. They already have tasted the good gifts of Jesus’ kingdom, and they will again (Matthew 4:23 and 9:35). In between, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stresses the ethical demands of his kingdom, teaching that privileges come with responsibilities.

If you already count yourself a disciple of Jesus, then I invite you to listen as one who already stands saved by grace. Compare your own heart and actions and priorities to the kingdom ethic Jesus describes. And if you are not yet Jesus’ disciple, then I invite you to overhear as Jesus, the Son of God, exhorts you with a standard that is beyond your reach, and a grace that is beyond your merit.

In short, I invite you to life in the kingdom.

Russ
Prelude  Hymn Prelude on PISGAH When I Can Read My Title Clear  Dale Wood Diemer
Dennis Bergin, organ

When I can read my title clear to mansions in the skies,
I’ll bid farewell to every fear, and wipe my weeping eyes.
Should earth against my soul engage and fiery darts be hurled,
Then I can smile at Satan’s rage and face a frowning world.

Text:  Isaac Watts, 1707
Tune:  Kentucky Harmony, 1816

Welcome
Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship  God Himself Is with Us
Kyrstan Brantley, soprano; Prudence Barker, alto; Bob Nagy, tenor; Will Barker, bass

God himself is with us: let us now adore him,
And with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple – all within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest rev’rence.
Him alone God we own,
Him, our God and Savior; praise his name forever.

God himself is with us: hear the harps resounding!
See the crowds the throne surrounding!
“Holy, holy, holy” – hear the hymn ascending,
Angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow thine ear to us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises that thy church now raises.
**God Calls Us to Worship**  Revelation 19:6-9; 21:1-3

Pastor:  I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

People:  “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

Pastor:  It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

People:  And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

Pastor:  Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

People:  And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Pastor:  And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.

People:  He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

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**We Proclaim the Bridegroom Near!**  **No. 320**  *Rejoice, All Ye Believers*

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**We Invoke His Presence**

**God Exposes Our Need**  Matthew 19:3-8

Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

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**We Confess Our Sin**

**Christ Provides for Our Need**  Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
*Thy Mercy Is More Than a Match for My Heart!*
Carrie Smith, piano; Peter Lilley, Bill Myers, Ariana Stout, guitar; Matt Brantley, bass; Rod Cunningham, keyboard; Greg Wagener, drums

**Thy Mercy, My God, Is The Theme of My Song**

Words: John Stoker; Music: Sandra McCracken; © 2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP); All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under CCLI#254738.
*Ordination and Installation of Officers*  1 Timothy 3:8-13
Deacons: Rick Reynolds, Dan Vogan, Jeff Waller

Deacons. . . must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

**Charge to the Deacons**  2 Timothy 2:15
Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

*We Bless Our Officers*

**Fill Thy Servants With Thy Power**

Words: Charles H. Spurgeon; Music: WYCLIFF, John Stainer

“We shine the Spotlight On Christ”
**We Invoking His Help**  Psalm 143:1

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

**God Calls Us to Stewardship**  Psalm 37:3

Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

**We Give Our Grateful Offerings**

**We Prepare for God’s Word**  *None Other Lamb*

Kyrstan Brantley, soprano; Wendy Myers, Prudence Barker, alto; Bob Nagy, tenor; Will Barker, bass; Carrie Smith, piano

None other Lamb, none other Name,
None other Hope in Heav’n or earth or sea,
None other hiding place from guilt and shame,
None beside Thee. None beside Thee.

My faith burns low, my hope burns low,
Only my heart’s desire cries out in me,
By the deep thunder of its want and woe
Cries out to Thee. Cries out to Thee.

Lord, Thou art life, tho’ I be dead;
Love’s fire Thou art, however cold I be:
Nor heav’n have I, nor place to lay my head,
Nor home, but Thee, nor home, but Thee,
Nor home, but Thee. None other Lamb.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti (1830-1894); Music: Craig Courtney; ©1987 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-715258.

**God Proclaims His Word**

**Sermon Series**  “Sermon on the Mount”

**Scripture Text**  Matthew 5:31-32 | page 810 in the pew Bible

**Sermon Title**  *Marriage Is for Life*
A Christian Home

1. O give us homes built firm up-on the Savior, where Christ is
Head and Counsel-or and guide; where every child is taught his love and favor and gives his heart to Christ, the cruci-fied:

2. O give us homes with god-ly fathers, mo-thers, who al-ways place their hope and trust in him; whose tender patience turmoil never bothers, whose calm and courage trouble can not dim:

3. O Lord, our God, our homes are thine for-ev-er! We trust to their prob-lems, toil and care; their bonds of love no en-e-my can sev-er, if thou art al-ways Lord and Mas-ter there:

Music: TIDINGS; James Wade, 1875
Through falt-ering foot-steps, Christ be our guide!
In lov-ing house-holds, Christ bear our pain!
On ev-ery Christ-ian, Christ grant your might!

Walk with our child-ren; stay faith-ful at their side.
When days are dark-ened; when fierce-ly falls the rain.
While in our soj-ourn, we feeb-ly shine your light.

*Benediction

*Postlude  Reprise: A Christian Home
Since God never intended easy divorce, we must obey Jesus’ teaching.

1. The Pharisees corrupted God’s intent

2. Jesus clarifies God’s intent

*Congregation please rise

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