

## THE 72—DISCIPLESHIP FOR KINGDOM LIFE AND MINISTRY

Unlocking the Secret of the Sermon on the Mount

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### 1 Welcome to the New Discipleship Year and “The 72”!

- For those who are new, why “The 72”? (**Luke 10:1-12; 17-20**)
  - Discipleship for Kingdom Believers and Kingdom Ministry
  - Developing people for Kingdom alignment in all circumstances and in all activity.
  - Equipping the church to prepare atmospheres for Jesus’ work.
  - Growing together for a lifetime.

### 2 Prophetic Insight for Today

- GESTATIONAL SEASONS—**Psalm 139:13-16**
  - Gestational seasons provide everything necessary for life to manifest as intended.
  
  - See **Acts 26:14**. In God’s sovereignty, Jesus is goading you down the road of destiny.

- We’re moving into a BIRTHING SEASON.

#### **Isaiah 66:7–9 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> “Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son. <sup>8</sup> Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children. <sup>9</sup> Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?” says the LORD; “shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?” says your God.

### 3 Why is the “Sermon on the Mount” such a big deal?

- Consider the “Great Commission” — **Matthew 28:18-20**
  - Discipleship is central to Jesus’ strategic work in the earth.
  
  - “Teach them to obey everything I’ve commanded you.”

- Jesus taught a very radical approach to the Torah and the traditions of the Rabbis.
  - Jesus actually sets-up an impossible scenario...it's impossible to do everything Jesus outlines.
  - **Matthew 5:17-19; 5:21-22; 5:27-28; 5:31-32; 5:33-34, 37; 5:38-39; 5:43-44**
  
- In chapters 6-7, we see what life looks like when we're living from heart rather than Law.
  - See **Matthew 7:21-23**.

#### 4 The Key that Unlocks Understanding to the "Sermon on the Mount"

##### **Matthew 5:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Jesus reveals that behavior modification is not enough!
  - Law changes habits but it does not change the person.
  
- Jesus demonstrates and gives us a *Theology of Internal Transformation*.
  - See **Matthew 7:17-20**.

#### 5 The Beatitudes give us hope in fulfilling the commands of Jesus.

- Read **Matthew 5:1-12**.
  
- Attitude precedes transformation and obedience.

- “Blessed” = (gr) makarios
  - Possessing the favor of God
  - Marked by the fullness of God
  - Fully satisfied no matter the circumstances
  - Having God’s Kingdom within
  - In the world but independent of the world
  - Satisfaction comes from God not from favorable circumstances

## 6 Jesus gives the solution to our contemporary crisis in Christianity (and the world).

- What is the crisis?
  
- We are seeing a fulfillment of **Matthew 24:12** before our eyes.

### **Matthew 24:12** (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

- No greater sign points to the last days than the *coldness of hearts*.
  
- Seeking a “righteousness that exceeds the scribes and pharisees” is to seek a lifestyle of *becoming the heart of God in the earth*.

## 7 Important Take-aways

- BEING MORE RIGHTEOUS IS NOT THE ANSWER, NOR THE MISSION JESUS GAVE US.
  
- THE GOSPEL IS NOT ABOUT GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD BUT STEPPING INTO THE LOVE HE HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL.
  
- THERE IS NO GREATER PROMISE OR GIFT THAN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

### **Romans 8:14** (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

- BEING HIS LOVE IS THE AGENDA.