

Christ Followers control their passions

Matthew 5:21-30

Sermon on the mount – mount of the beatitudes

Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28

Jesus took the wheel!

Driving your life.

We love control.

I love manual transmissions. I could even control the car even more.

Passenger seat and back seat drivers.

God is NOT your copilot...he is the pilot

Craig Kenner points out that “Jesus may have in view common identification of Spirit with prophetic inspiration and empowerment...Given the common belief that the prophetic Spirit was no longer active, Jesus’ words would strike ancient ears forcefully. The future hour (John 4:21) is present as well as future. Jesus makes the character of the future world available to His disciples in the present life.”

Offend the mind to change the heart

The Jews had the torah which were the scriptures. Then around 200 BC they started writing down the teachings and interpretations from various rabbis. The teachings helped put the scriptures into practice. But they started to elevate the teachings above the torah, law of God. It would be like putting pastor John’s sermons over the written Word.

So Jesus challenged them. they had forgotten the importance of the scriptures in determining the way of living. They let others drive their lives and not God. **It was all about the heart.**

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”

All of the Old Testament pushed us to not serve God outwardly. It was to push us to have a heart postured with a passion for the things of God and not the passions of the world. Jesus continued that. He didn’t come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

Passions should not drive us. We shouldn’t be controlled by anything that would push us away from God. These verses focus on anger and lust, but other portions of the sermon on the mount covers other emotionally and spiritually charged reactions such as fear, worry, pride, and others.

Galatians 5:16-26

The working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer should drive us. Producing fruits fit for the Kingdom of God.

Worldly passions want to sit in the place where God deserves to be. Tension between works of the flesh and the new you the Spirit is creating.

And Jesus is hitting this head on in this part of the Sermon on the mount.

Jesus wanted the Kingdom to come in your life. Let us consider this for a moment.

God’s General’s

Mark 16:17a

“And these signs will follow those who believe:”

Hebrews 4:3-4

“**3** how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, **4** God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

The world needs what Jesus gave you, but you can choose to hinder and squander it or you can release it.

Acts of the Apostles – why not here? Why not now?

Is it because we refuse to control our passions?

Is it because we don't fill our lives with right living?

Brings back 7 demons worse off than before

Matthew 12:43-45

“**43** “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. **44** Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. **45** Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

The ABCs of controlling your passion

Admit your problem to God

Build guardrails

Proverbs 16:32 “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

Correct your route

Driving you to new places... when we get off track... recalculating.

STOP WALKING AROUND WITH A MOUTHFUL OF SCRIPTURES AND A HEART FULL OF HATE

Hebrews 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him of whom we must be accountable.”

We must all give an account for all we have done.

2 Corinthians 5:10 reminds believers we will be held accountable for the life we lived in Christ. Revelation 20 reminds us that unbelievers will be held accountable for their actions and give an account for rejecting Jesus by looking at the Lamb's book of life for their names.

Books were opened

All of our words, actions, search histories, bank statements, phone calls, texts messages, thoughts and even motives behind our actions

I die daily not weekly or monthly

Anger hinders prayer

Lust hinders living

Bitterness is drinking poison and expecting the other person to die

You've heard it said, but I say....

Your life and passions look like this, but my desire for you is this...Life more abundantly.

[INSERT PASSION HERE], you can't sit here in the spot in our life that is reserved for Jesus.

You have to let Jesus have the seat. He is a better driver for our life.

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