

***The New Normal
Our Kingdom Power
Matthew 5:17-20***

We began a new series last week...

I've titled it ... "The New Normal"

This is a phrase many have been using to define our current realities...

However, we are taking a different slant...

We are going to be walking through the most famous sermon every preached by the most famous preacher who ever lived...

We are going to be walking through Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount"

It is found in Matthew, chapters 5-7...

It could actually be better titled, "The Sermon of the Kingdom"

For in it Jesus shows His followers WHO they are and HOW to live in this fallen world

In today's message we are going to see how Jesus began...

Following those EIGHT BEATTITUDES ... the Attitudes of the Kingdom... Jesus tells His followers WHO they are...

When I talk about a NEW NORMAL ... What is it?

The New Normal is the RESPONSIBILITY of EVERY believer to RELEASE God's Kingdom on EARTH

Last week we saw clearly our responsibility...

You ARE the Salt of the earth

You ARE the Light of the world

The world is placing it's hope in the idea that with enough knowledge, skill, and hard work, they can make this world a better place

Throughout the history of mankind people have fallen to this fallacy

Second, Jesus makes this amazing statement...

*You ARE the salt and the light!
Jesus doesn't say being SALT and LIGHT is something we must work to achieve*

He says WE ALREADY ARE these things!

The Church is not here to make the world a better place, but to expose the world to another Kingdom!

A byproduct of our lives can make this world a better place, but that is not the purpose!

2 Timothy 3:12–13 (ESV) — Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Today, our **FOCUS** is on **HOW** we fulfill our responsibility...

... How do we live it? ...

ONE THING

The New Normal is the *RELEASE* of God's Kingdom through the *SURRENDERED* believer

Jesus' sermon began with the "ATTITUDES OF THE KINGDOM". The **EIGHT** beatitudes...

Then last week we saw where Jesus shared with us our **IDENTITY** in this **DECAYING AND DARK** world...

We are **SALT** and **LIGHT**...

As Jesus comes to the "HOW" He begins by expressing **HOW THIS NEW NORMAL WILL BEGIN...**

The New Normal is the release of God's Kingdom through the surrendered believer

1. The New Normal began through Jesus' UNDENIABLE fulfillment of SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:17–18 (ESV) — "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

NOTICE – Jesus didn't say that He came to **CLARIFY** the Scriptures, or, as some thought, **TWIST** the Scriptures to what He wanted them to say...

Matthew 5:17 (ESV) — ... I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them...

To "abolish" means, "to put an end to"...

To "fulfill" means, "to give true meaning"...

Jesus did not come to put an end to the Scriptures, but to give true meaning to them.

John 5:39–40 (ESV) — You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Jesus fulfilled over 330 Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah the Jews were waiting for...

The Scriptures are Christocentric...

That means that the Scriptures revolve around Jesus!

Through His ...

- **Virgin birth...**
- **Sinless life...**
- **Sacrificial death...**
- **Bodily resurrection...**
- **Glorious Ascension...**
- **Current Intercession...**
- **And SOON RETURN!!...**

Jesus IS the FULFILLMENT of Scriptures!

The New Normal is the release of God's Kingdom through the surrendered believer

1. The New Normal began through Jesus' UNDENIABLE fulfillment of SCRIPTURE

2. The New Normal is UNATTAINABLE apart from JESUS

Matthew 5:19–20 (ESV) — Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The strangeness of Jesus' statement here doesn't really strike us...

The Scribes were the interpreters of Scripture...

The Pharisees were the most committed Jews in keeping all the Law...

The Apostle Paul said this about his former life apart from Jesus...

Philippians 3:5–6 (NLT) — I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so

zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

Through the rest of chapter 5 Jesus says many times...

“You have heard it said... but I say to you...”

He ends this chapter with this word...

Matthew 5:48 (ESV) — You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

In other words, the righteousness God requires is sinless perfection!

We CANNOT produce that!

But through Jesus we can enter His Righteousness!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) — For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Paul, who before giving his life to Jesus, thought he was blameless according to the Law...

After giving his life to Jesus he realized the truth...

Romans 3:19–22 (ESV) — Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

The New Normal is the release of God's Kingdom through the surrendered believer

1. The New Normal began through Jesus' UNDENIABLE fulfillment of SCRIPTURE

2. The New Normal is UNATTAINABLE apart from JESUS

3. The New Normal is UNSUSTAINABLE apart from the SPIRIT

Matthew 5:19–20 (ESV) — Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The RIGHTEOUSNESS of God's Kingdom is RECEIVED through Jesus and RELEASED by the Spirit

Romans 8:5–8 (ESV) — For those who live according to the flesh[sinful nature] set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

We must daily SURRENDER to the LORDSHIP of Jesus and the LEADERSHIP of the Spirit!

John 15:5 (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Sanctification is God proving to me over and over again that I cannot live the Christian life!

***The New Normal
Our Kingdom Power
Matthew 5:17-20***

What is it?

***The New Normal is the _____ of _____ believer
to _____ God's Kingdom on _____***

How do we live it?

***The New Normal is the _____ of God's Kingdom through the
_____ believer***

***1. The New Normal began through Jesus' _____
fulfillment of _____***

***2. The New Normal is _____ apart from
_____***

***3. The New Normal is _____ apart from the
_____***

***The _____ of God's Kingdom is _____
through Jesus and _____ by the Spirit.***

***We must daily _____ to the _____ of Jesus
and the _____ of the Spirit!***