



Matthew

Lesson 5

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, ‘God with Us.’” Matthew 1:23

The holy, transcendent, immutable, and all-powerful God has come to earth as a baby in manger; Mary and Joseph, along with the Magi and shepherds were the only ones aware of the amazing event. Now that child has grown to be a man, and His active ministry begins with a very unusual baptism and an intense 40-day temptation by Satan in the

desert. Though many will question if Jesus is actually the Messiah sent from God, Satan is fully convinced that He is. Therefore, when Jesus is at His weakest, Satan attempts to persuade Him to deny His calling and abandon His commitment to His Father. But even in His extremely weakened state, the Son of God resisted and remained committed to His Father’s plan. Obedience to His Father is the very heartbeat of Jesus, and nothing will sway Him from that objective even as horrific and painful that call will be.

Read Matthew Chapter 5 and Luke 6



John the Baptist and Jesus preached repentance as preparation for experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew 5-8, called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is revealing to His disciples and others listening the characteristics of those who participate in this Kingdom of Heaven while on earth. These are not behaviors we conform to in order to attain salvation but characteristics that are formed in us when we come under the rule of our new King. With the presence of God dwelling within us through the Holy Spirit, we have the potential to become Kingdom dwellers. As we are transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom.12:2) and we walk in love as Christ did (Eph.5:2), we exhibit new behavior that is evidence that we are no longer bound to this world but have taken our position as citizens of Heaven.

1. *List the characteristics of Kingdom dwellers from vs. 3-11.*

8. From vs. 21-43 (you have heard it said...but I say), what five areas of the Law does Jesus use to elevate the standard of Kingdom righteousness over simply Law keeping?

<i>“you have heard it said”</i>	<i>“but I say...”</i>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

9. How do you think the people listening responded to these truths and Christ’s call to perfection in vs. 46-48? What is your response to it? Read Rom. 9:30-10:13 and consider it in your answer.

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
