June 10, 2020

Scripture and Reflection Questions

**Matthew 5-7 – Sermon on the Mount**

***Note from “The Jesus Bible” – NIV version:***

“The Sermon on the Mount includes Jesus’ explanation of how he is the fulfillment of the law. This discourse was not meant to replace Old Testament law, but rather it points to the ultimate fulfillment of the spiritual intention of the law. Jesus explained the true meaning and purpose of the Old Testament law. The law was designed not to confine people to their own futile efforts but rather to show complete dependence on God.

Here in the book of Matthew, Jesus created a standard that no human can fully achieve. He did not preach such a high standard of law in order to discourage his followers from obeying it, but rather he taught it in such a way as to show how necessary is human dependence on the Spirit of God. Jesus expects his followers to give their fullest effort to obey his commandments, yet he knows they will fall short. He gives them his Spirit to empower them whenever they ask.”

1. Which section/verse from the Sermon on the Mount speaks to you most right now? Which passage do you think is directly speaking into our lives today?
2. After the discourse from Jesus, the final verses in Matthew 7 reads: “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” Why do you think His authority was so amazing to people? What do you think their “normal” teaching consisted of?
3. The above note mentions that this sermon was designed to show how followers of Jesus need full dependence on God. How do these chapters remind you of your need for God? Is that freeing to you, or confining?
4. If Jesus were to give this sermon today, how do you think people would respond?