

"INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN COUNTER-CULTURE"

NEW BEGINNING COMMUNITY CHURCH

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INTRO: To understand the Sermon on the Mount, we must GRASP the O.T. background!

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND.

- A. The SETTING. **Exodus 19:3–6** *Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."*
- B. The COMMAND. **Leviticus 18:1–4** *Then the LORD said to Moses, ² "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. I am the LORD your God. ³ So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life. ⁴ You must obey all my regulations and be careful to obey my decrees, for I am the LORD your God."*
- C. The people's RESPONSE. **Exodus 24:7** *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey."*
- D. The RESULTS. **Psalms 106:35** *Instead, they mingled among the pagans and adopted their evil customs. 1 Samuel 8:5* "Look," they told him, "you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have."
Ezekiel 20:32 "You say, 'We want to be like the nations all around us, who serve idols of wood and stone.'
- E. The WARNINGS. **Jeremiah 10:2** *This is what the LORD says: "Do not act like the other nations, who try to read their future in the stars. . . ."*
Ezekiel 20:7 *Then I said to them, 'Each of you, get rid of the vile images you are so obsessed with. Do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt, for I am the LORD your God.'*
- F. The CONSEQUENCE.
1. In 722-23 B.C., the Assyrians destroyed the Northern Kingdom.
 2. In 596 B.C., the Babylonians destroyed the Southern Kingdom.
 3. In A.D. 33 ish, Jesus took the Kingdom away from Israel.
Matthew 21:43 *I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit.*
 4. In A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem putting the final nail in Israel's coffin.

G. The EXAMPLE. **1 Corinthians 10:11** *These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down TO WARN us who live at the end of the age.*

Super duper truth on steroids²: The same thing that happen to Israel will happen to a Christian or a church that FOLLOW Israel's example.

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT COUNTERPART.

- A. The SETTING. **Matthew 5:1** *One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down.*
- K.T.: God gave the Law through Moses; God gave them Sermon on the Mount through HIMSELF.
- B. The AUDIENCE. **Matthew 5:1–2** *His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.*
- K.T.: Moses' audience was the 12 tribes of Israel; Jesus' audience was the 12 disciples or the NEW people of God.
- C. Jesus' called for repentance which is a change of mind that results in a change of BEHAVIOR. **Matthew 6:8** *Don't be like them. . .*
- D. Christ's true followers are to be different from PAGANS.
1. Pagans love their friends; Christians love their enemies ALSO.
 2. Pagans babble in prayer; Christians speak to a heavenly FATHER.
 3. Pagans seek material possessions; Christians seek God's KINGDOM.
 4. Pagans do what is best for themselves; Christians do what is best for OTHERS.
 5. Pagans WORRY about things; Christians PRAY about things.
 6. Pagans seek for revenge; Christians are to extend MERCY.
 7. Pagans walk the BROAD road; Christians walk the NARROW road.
- E. Christ's true followers are to be different from religious PEOPLE. **Matthew 5:20** *"But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!"*
1. Religious people make a show of PRAYER; Christians pray secretly.
 2. Religious people make a show of FASTING; Christians fast secretly.
 3. Religious people make a show of GIVING; Christians give secretly.
 4. Religious people are filled with PRIDE; Christians are filled with HUMILITY!
 5. Religious people wear a MASK; Christians are mask FREE.
- F.T.: Every major change in life is based on a DECISION to change.