Introduction: This week you have read the entire Gospel of Matthew

- Many themes emerge within the Matthean text.
- Certainly, Jesus as fulfillment of Jewish Messianic hopes.
- Teaching and parables of the Kingdom.
- Discourse on end times.

No theme more clearly articulated than that of the radical nature of discipleship.

- Heard in the words of the Sermon on the Mount

"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12 NKJV

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Matthew 5:21-23 NKJV

- Words after He announces His plan to go to the cross

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-26 NKJV

- His lesson regarding the nature of the Kingdom
Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Matthew 18:2-6 NKJV

For today—we return to the Sermon on the Mount

- Disciples intent on earthly Kingdom while Jesus unfolds what true discipleship looks like
- Culture must be engaged (salt/light) and righteousness must exceed the legalistic nature of the Pharisees

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 NKJV

OBSERVATION: Sad reality—church has merged into the world with little observable distinction. God is calling us to a radical discipleship!

NOTE: Words we read today mark a call to distinction, a call to being unlike the world.

Three areas:

- Value system
- Devotion
- Faith

NOTE: These words to first hearers were radical words!

1. Call to a Radical Value System

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV

(All about value placed on possessions)

A. Two underlying teachings of Jesus

1. Should not value possessions enough to SEEK them
2. Should not value possessions enough to TRUST them
a. The words strike to core of both the “well-to-do” and the poor
b. We often try to explain away what Jesus taught
c. Surely he didn't care about material possessions
d. Yet, a theme of his teaching that must not be ignored

Soren Kierkegard: “So insidious is his attack upon earthly resources that he became a more terrible robber than those who assault travelers along the highway. Jesus assaulted the whole human race at the point where that race is most sensitive: its desire for security and superiority.

NOTE: Luke includes three substantial sections on the issue

✓ Luke 12: Fool who builds bigger barns (God calls a fool)
✓ Luke 14: Rich who would not come to feast
✓ Luke 16: Rich man and Lazarus

Underlying Teaching:

Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11 NKJV

B. Three issues Jesus takes up:

1. Our treasures
   a. Earthly treasures (precious metals, coins, apparel that moths can’t destroy)
   b. Heavenly treasures

✓ Eternal Life

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:25-26 NKJV

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:29 NKJV

✓ Entering Master’s Joy

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Matthew 25:21 NKJV

✓ Inheriting the Kingdom

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Matthew 25:34 NKJV
NOTE: Point of Jesus-Earthly and Heavenly treasures are competing value systems

2. Instruction—“Don’t lay up!” - “Lay up!”
   a. Stop storing for yourselves (no banking, monetary savings in strong boxes in houses or buried under the floor-real danger of thieves and rust)
   b. Do store up heavenly treasures

NOTE: Not ruling out possessions

And these things command, that they may be blameless. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:7-8 NKJV

BUT: A call to priority

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 NKJV

3. The means of laying up treasure
   a. Earthly-accumulate, protect, build, bury, continually stress over
   b. Heavenly (Matthew 20-only parable deals with reward) Matthew 20-labors in vineyard-3rd, 6th, 9th, 11th house-all got some
      - Not merit for length of service or earthly effect
      - By belonging to and living by Kingdom principles

Radical call

✔ Instead of stressing and using all energy and amassing earthly treasure and burying it
✔ Live by Kingdom principles and experience the heavenly reward

Radical value system
II. Call to a Radical Devotion to Christ

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:22-24 NKJV

A. Metaphor of the eye

1. Lamp of the body is the eye
   a. Light (darkness, imagery for spiritual health/failure is common
   b. Eye (in this picture) directs the activity of the body
   c. So-crucial that the eye is healthy
2. Good/bad eye issue
   a. Good-“haplous”-single-minded, undistracted but also generous
   b. Bad-“poeros”-bad, stingy selfish

POINT: If your focus is single (Christ and Kingdom) you will be generous; not consumed by protecting things!

B. Metaphor of two masters

1. Cannot serve two-people try all the time
2. Picture is slavery-constant work on an hourly basis
3. Gripped by their master
4. Can only have 1 master

IMPORTANT: Not about possessions we have it’s about possessions having us!

Do we long to have more-or be MORE like Him?

Materialism-Individual or corporate, is in inevitable conflict-with the Kingdom of God
III. Call to Radical Faith in God

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:25-34 NKJV

Faith in contrast to worry—Matthew uses worry 7 times (6 in this passage)

NOTE: Basic needs not be worried about… “Birds and lilies are taken care of…."

Two statements

A. The faith that Jesus calls for is not a formula which guarantees immediate results, but rather a trust in the faithfulness of God, our Heavenly Father

1. Faith taught by Western Christianity has God bound. He MUST come through.
2. God becomes a puppet that must respond to our demands
3. Radical faith trust a Father with whom I am intimate, I know Him

B. The challenges called for by Jesus is a reorientation of the believer’s pursuit

For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:32-33 NKJV

1. Seek—"zeteo"
2. Gentiles—“epizeteo”-anxious pursuit
3. Seek (seteo-pursues without anxiety) the Kingdom and things they anxiously pursue will be added to you!

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:34 NKJV

-Your Father knows!
Conclusion:

1. What do you value? (Things or heavenly rewards?)
2. To whom or what are you devoted?
3. How is your faith? (Anxious about stuff or do you trust your Heavenly Father?)

SEEK KINGDOM:

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17 NKJV

✓ Righteousness-to live holy, be like Christ
✓ Peace

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6 NKJV

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:6-9 NKJV

✓ Joy

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalms 16:11 NKJV

Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Isaiah 12:3 NKJV