### Matthew

## Chapter 5

1Well, when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up a mountain and sat down, and his disciples came to him. 2Then he opened his mouth and started teaching them, saying:  
  
 3‘Blest are the humble;  
 For theirs is the Kingdom of [God].  
  
 4‘Blest are those who are sad;  
 For they’ll be given comfort.  
  
 5‘Blest are also the meek;  
 For they’ll inherit the land.  
  
 6‘Those hungering and thirsting for righteousness are blest;  
 For they’ll find satisfaction.  
  
 7‘Blest are those who show mercy;  
 For mercy is what they’ll receive.  
  
 8‘Blest are those with pure hearts;  
 For they’ll [come to] see God.  
  
 9‘Blest are those who make peace;  
 For they’ll be called Sons of God.  
  
 10‘Blest are those who receive persecution  
 For doing [things that are] righteous,  
 Since theirs is the Kingdom of [God].  
  
 11‘You’re blest when they [shout] insults at you,  
 And when they persecute you,  
 Then say many bad things about you  
 And lie about you for my sake.  
  
 12‘For this, you should [cry out in] joy;  
 Since your reward in the heavens is great,  
 For that’s how they treated the Prophets before you.  
  
 13‘You’re the salt of the earth;  
 But if salt becomes weak, is it still salt?  
 No, when it no longer has strength,  
 It’s thrown outside to be walked on.  
  
 14‘You’re the light of this world…  
 And a city on a hill can’t be hidden!  
  
 15‘You don’t light a lamp  
 And then put it under a basket…  
 You put it on a lampstand instead,  
 Where it can shine throughout the whole house!  
  
 16‘So let your light shine before all,  
 Then they can speak of the good things you’ve done  
 And give glory to your Father in the heavens.  
  
 17‘Don’t think that I came to destroy  
 The Law or the [words of the] Prophets…  
 For I came to fulfill, not to destroy.  
  
 18‘I’m telling you the truth when I say that it’s more likely that the land and skies would pass away, than for an iota or a small point on a letter of the Law to pass away before it’s all fulfilled.  
  
 19‘So, whoever breaks the least of the commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the Kingdom of [God], while those who teach and follow them will be called great in the Kingdom.  
  
 20‘I also say this to you:  
  
 ‘If you aren’t more righteous than the Scribes and Pharisees, you won’t enter the Kingdom of [God].  
  
 21‘You’ve heard that the ancients were told:  
  
 ‘You must not commit murder, for those who murder will be judged.’  
  
 22‘However, I tell you this:  
  
 ‘Anyone who stays angry with his brother will have to be judged, and anyone who calls his brother empty-headed must stand before the religious court. Also, anyone who [calls his brother] a moron will be [condemned] to the garbage-dump fires.  
  
 23‘And if you bring a gift to [God’s] Altar, but while you’re on the way you remember that your brother holds something against you; 24leave your gift at the Altar and go [to him].  
  
 ‘First make peace with your brother, and then return to offer your gift.  
  
 25‘Also, while you’re on your way [to a court], you should quickly work out an agreement with your adversary, so you won’t have to leave the matter in the hands of the judge... Who may hand you over to the bailiff... Who’ll then lock you in jail.  
  
 26‘If that happens, I tell you this for a fact:  
  
 ‘You won’t be released ‘til you’ve paid the last penny!  
  
 27‘You’ve all heard that it’s said:  
  
 ‘You must not commit adultery.’  
  
 28‘But I tell you that any man who stares at a woman and develops a desire [to have] her, has committed adultery [with her] in his heart.  
  
 29‘So if your right eye becomes a trap to you, pull it out and throw it away! For it’s better to lose a piece of yourself than to lose your whole body in the garbage dump. 30Or if your right hand becomes a trap to you, cut it off and throw it away! For it’s better to lose a piece of yourself than to lose your whole body in the garbage dump.  
  
 31‘It is also said that [any man] who releases his woman should give her a certificate of rejection. 32But I say:  
  
 ‘[Any man] who releases his woman except on account of sexual immorality, leads her into adultery. And [any man] who marries a woman who’s been released is committing adultery.  
  
 33‘Again, you heard it was said long ago:  
  
 ‘You must not swear a false oath; rather, you must do as you vow to Jehovah.’ [paraphrase of Numbers 30:2]  
  
 34‘However, I tell you this: Swear oaths by nothing at all!  
  
 ‘Don’t swear by heaven,  
 For that’s God’s throne;  
  
 35‘Nor should you swear oaths by the earth,  
 Because that’s also [God’s] footstool;  
  
 ‘And don’t swear by JeruSalem,  
 For that’s the city of the great king.  
  
 36‘Don’t swear oaths by the hairs on your head,  
 For you can’t turn a hair black or white!  
  
 37‘Let your yes just mean yes,  
 And let your no just mean no,  
 For it’s things like this that lead you towards evil.  
  
 38‘You’ve also heard it was said:  
  
 ‘Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.’  
  
 39‘But I’m telling you this: Don’t oppose evil men.  
  
 ‘So if someone slaps your right cheek,  
 Turn the other to him also.  
  
 40‘And if someone wants to take you to court  
 And sue for your underwear,  
 Give him the rest of your clothes!  
  
 41‘Or if someone makes you to serve him for a mile,  
 Go with him for two miles!  
  
 42‘Yes, give freely to all those who ask,  
 And don’t turn away those wishing to borrow.  
  
 43‘You’ve heard the saying that goes:  
  
 ‘You must love all your neighbors  
 And dislike [all of] your enemies.’  
  
 44‘But I say:  
  
 ‘Show love for your enemies  
 And pray for those who persecute you;  
  
 45‘For by doing this, you’ll prove yourselves  
 The sons of your Father in the heavens  
 Who lets the sun arise on the wicked and the good,  
 And sends rain to the righteous and the unrighteous.  
  
 46‘For if you only love those who love you;  
 What reward are you really due…  
 Don’t tax collectors do the same thing?  
  
 47‘And if you greet only your brothers;  
 What are you doing that’s special…  
 Don’t the gentiles do the same thing?  
  
 48‘So, just be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect!’