

MATTHEW 5

NLET

JESUS CHOOSES AN ISOLATED SETTING FOR TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES

1 Now, having seen the throngs, He went up on the Mountain. And, after He sat down, to Him the disciples *that were His* came.

JESUS TEACHES THE WAY OF BLESSING

2 And, having opened the Mouth *that is His*, He was teaching them, saying:

3 “Blessed *ones are* the *beggarly* poor *ones* with respect to the Spirit; because, *consisting* of them is the Kingdom of the Heavens!

4 Blessed *ones are* the ones who are mourning; because, they, *for their part*, shall be consoled!

5 Blessed *ones are* the meek *ones*; because, they, *for their part*, shall inherit the Earth!

6 Blessed *ones are* the ones who are hungering and thirsting *for* the Righteousness; because, they, *for their part*, shall be satisfied!

7 Blessed *ones are* the merciful *ones*; because, they, *for their part*, shall be shown mercy!

8 Blessed *ones are* the clean *ones with respect to* the Heart; because, they, *for their part*, shall see the God!

9 Blessed *ones are* the peace-making *ones*; because, they, *for their part*, shall be called ‘Sons of God.’

10 Blessed *ones are* the ones having been lastingly persecuted for the sake of righteousness; because, *consisting* of them is the Kingdom of the Heavens!

11 Blessed *ones are* you, whenever ones who are being deceived

- might reproach you and
- might persecute you and
- might say every evil utterance¹ against you on account of Me!

12 Be delighted! And, be rejoicing exceedingly! Because, the Compensation *that is yours* is great in the Heavens. For, in this way they persecuted the Prophets, the *ones* before you.

JESUS TEACHES US OUR IDENTITY

13 You, *for your part*, are the Salt of the Earth!

Now, if ever the Salt becomes insipid, with what shall it be salted? *In regard* to nothing is it any longer strong enough, except to be thrown out and² to be continually trampled down by the People.

14 You, *for your part*, are the Light of the Created Order!

JESUS PRESENTS

THE PARABLE OF THE CITY SITUATED ON A HILL

A city which is situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

JESUS PRESENTS

THE PARABLE OF THE LAMP ON THE LAMPSTAND

15 Neither do they light a lamp and place it under the two-gallon dry measure container; rather, upon the Lampstand. And, it gives light to all those *who are* in the house.

16 In the same way, let the Light *that is yours* give light in front of the People, with the result that they might see the excellent deeds *that are yours* and might highly esteem the Father *Who is yours* – namely, the One in the Heavens!

JESUS TEACHES US HIS PURPOSE FOR COMING

17 Do not think that I have come to dismiss the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to dismiss *them*; rather, to fulfill *them*.

JESUS TEACHES US HOW ENDURING AND PRECIOUS EVERYTHING IN THE LAW IS

18 For, truly I say to you, until the Heaven and the Earth pass away, one iota³ or one horn *projecting from a letter* shall by no means pass away from the Law, until all things happen.

19 So then, whoever might annul one of the Injunctions –

- namely, these,
- even the least,

and might teach the People in the same way, he shall be called ‘Least’ in the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Now, whoever might do and might teach *all the Injunctions*, this one shall be called ‘Great’ in the Kingdom of the Heavens.

¹ 99.8% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word ‘utterance’ here.

² 99% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have a passive infinitive instead of an aorist passive verb and the conjunction ‘and’ here, which infinitive then matches the infinitive with which it is coupled.

³ ‘iota’ – that is, the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet (ι), Since ‘the Law’ was written in Hebrew and Jesus was speak Aramaic, He most likely said ‘yod’ (י), the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

JESUS TEACHES US

TO WHAT EXTENT OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST GO

20 For, I say to you that, if ever the Righteousness *that* is yours does not exceed by far *that* of the Scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of the Heavens.

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE

IN REGARD TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS

21 You heard that it was said to the Ancient Ones, **'You shall not murder,'**⁴ and, 'Whoever might murder shall be liable to the penalty of death by the legal decision.'

22 Now, I, *for My part*, say to you that everyone who becomes angry with the brother *that is* his rashly⁵ shall be liable to the penalty of death by the legal decision.

Now, whoever might say to the brother *that is* his, 'Raka⁶,' shall be liable to the penalty of death by the Sanhedrin.

Now, whoever might say, 'Fool!' shall be liable to the penalty of death in the Gehenna characterized by the Fire.

23 So then, if ever you are bearing the gift that is yours to the Altar and there might remember that the brother *that is* yours rightly has something against you, 24 leave the gift *that is* yours there before the Altar; and, go. First, be reconciled with the brother *that is* yours. And then, having come, offer the gift *that is* yours.

JESUS PRESENTS THE PARABLE

CONCERNING THE URGENCY OF BEING RECONCILED

WITH THE ONE WHOM A PERSON HAS WRONGED

25 Be kindly-minded toward the adversary *that is* yours quickly, while you are on the road with him⁷, lest the adversary might hand you over to the judge; and, the judge might hand you over⁸ to the assistant; and,

⁴ A reference to Exodus 20:13

⁵ 96.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the adverb 'rashly' here.

⁶ 'Raka'— a transliteration of the Greek word ῥακά which itself is a transliteration of an Aramaic or Hebrew word which means 'empty' and might be translated as 'Brainless one'.

⁷ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'on the road with him' here instead of 'with him on the road'.

⁸ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words 'might hand you over' here.

⁹ 'kodrantes'— a transliteration of the Greek word κοδράντην which referred to a small, bronze, Greek coin, similar to a penny in value.

¹⁰ A reference to Exodus 20:15

¹¹ See footnote 10.

¹² 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'be thrown into Gehenna' instead of 'into Gehenna depart.'

you shall be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you shall by no means come out of there, until you might repay the last kodrantes⁹!

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE

IN REGARD TO SEXUAL PURITY

27 You heard that it was said, **'You shall not commit adultery.'**¹⁰

28 Now, I, *for My part*, say to you that every man who is looking at a woman so as to place his desire upon her has already committed adultery with her in the heart *that is* his.

29 Now, if, *indeed*, the eye *that is* yours — namely, the right one — entraps you *in a deathtrap*, take it out and throw it from you. For, it is advantageous to you that one of the parts *that are* yours might perish and the whole body *that is* yours might not be thrown into Gehenna¹¹.

30 And, if, *indeed*, the right hand *that is* yours entraps you *in a deathtrap*, cut it off and throw it from you. For, it is advantageous to you that one of the parts *that are* yours might perish and the whole body *that is* yours might not be thrown into Gehenna¹².

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE

IN REGARD TO MARRIAGE

31 It was said¹³ that¹⁴ **'Whoever might divorce the wife that is his, let him give her a written notice of divorce.'**¹⁵

32 Now, I, *for My part*, say to you that whoever might divorce¹⁶ the wife *that is* his, except for the reason of immoral sexual intercourse, makes her to adulterate herself¹⁷. And, whoever might marry a woman who has been lastingly *and wrongfully* divorced is suffering from *his* adultery¹⁸.

¹³ 30% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'It was said' here instead of 'Now, it was said'.

¹⁴ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word 'that' here.

¹⁵ A reference to Deuteronomy 24:1

¹⁶ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'whoever might divorce' instead of 'everyone who divorces'.

¹⁷ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'μοιχᾶσθαι', an aorist, middle voice infinitive here, translated here as 'to adulterate herself'. In other words, she finds herself in a situation where she is no longer able to continue fulfilling her rightful, wifely function.

¹⁸ ALL of the Greek manuscripts have 'μοιχᾶται' here, which is a form which can be either a present middle voice infinitive or a present passive voice infinitive. This translation takes it as a present passive voice verb of 'μοιχᾶω', meaning 'to suffer from his

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE
IN REGARD TO VOWS

33 Again, you heard that it was said to the Ancient Ones, **‘You shall not swear falsely;’**¹⁹ and, **‘To the Lord you shall pay the vows that are yours.’**²⁰

- 34 Now, I, for My part, say to you not to vow at all –
- neither by the Heaven; because, it is a throne of the God;
 - 35 nor by the Earth; because, it is the footstool for the feet *that are* His;
 - nor toward Jerusalem; because, it is a city of the great King;
 - 36 nor by the head *that is* yours shall you vow; because, you are not able to make one hair white or black.

37 Now, let the word *that is* yours be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’. What is more than these is from the Wicked One²¹.

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE
IN REGARD TO RESPONDING TO EVIL

38 You heard that it was said, **“An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.”**²²

39 Now, I, for My part, say to you not to match yourself up with the Wicked One²³.

Rather, he who shall slap²⁴ you on²⁵ the right cheek²⁶ – turn to him also the other.

40 And, to the one who wishes to take you to trial – even for the inner garment *that is* yours! – grant to him also the outer garment.

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE
IN REGARD TO HELPING OTHERS

41 And, *the soldier or courier* who presses you into *public Roman* service for one thousand paces – go with him two.

adultery’.

¹⁹ A reference to Leviticus 19:12

²⁰ A reference to Deuteronomy 23:21

²¹ Most likely, a reference to Satan. Cf. Matthew 6:13 where the same articulated adjective appears.

²² A reference to Exodus 21:34

²³ Again, most likely, a reference to Satan. Cf. Matthew 6:13 where the same articulated adjective appears.

²⁴ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘shall slap’ instead of ‘slaps’.

²⁵ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘on’ instead of ‘to’ or ‘toward’.

²⁶ 65% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘right cheek’. On the basis of less than 1% the NU has ‘right cheek that is yours’.

²⁷ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘keep on giving’ (present imperative verb) instead of ‘give’ (aorist imperative verb).

²⁸ 97.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

42 To the one who keeps on asking you, keep on giving²⁷.

And, from the one wishing to keep on borrowing²⁸ some money for himself, do not turn away.

JESUS TEACHES US HOW RIGHTEOUS WE MUST BE
IN REGARD TO LOVING OTHERS

43 You heard that it was said, **‘You shall love the neighbor that is yours,’**²⁹ and, ‘You shall hate the enemy *that is* yours.’

44 Now, I, for My part, say to you:

- keep on loving the enemies *that are* yours,
- keep on blessing the ones who are cursing you,
- keep on doing good to the ones who are hating you,³⁰ and
- keep on praying for the ones who are dealing spitefully with you and³¹ ones who are persecuting you.

45 In this way you might become sons of the Father *that is* yours, the One in the³² Heavens. Because, the Sun *that is* His rises upon wicked ones and good³³ ones. And, it rains upon righteous ones and unrighteous ones.”

46 For, if ever you might love the ones who are loving you, what compensation do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And, if ever you might greet the friends³⁴ *that are* yours only, what better thing are you doing? Are not also the tax collectors³⁵ doing similarly³⁶?

transmission (f35), have ‘to keep on borrowing’ (present infinitive) instead of ‘to borrow’ (aorist infinitive).

²⁹ A reference to Leviticus 18:19

³⁰ 91.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words ‘Be blessing the ones who are cursing you. Be doing good to the ones who are hating you.’ On the basis of 0.8% the NU omits them.

³¹ 94.3% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include ‘the ones who are dealing spitefully with you and’. On the basis of 0.8% the NU omits them.

³² 80% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include this definite article.

³³ ‘good’ – or, ‘noble’.

³⁴ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘friends’ here instead of ‘brothers’.

³⁵ 91.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘tax collectors’ instead of ‘ethnicities’.

³⁶ 80.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘similarly’ instead of ‘the same’.

JESUS TEACHES US

HOW FAR OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST GO

48 So then, you, for your part, shall be perfect³⁷ ones, just as³⁸ the Father *that is* yours, the One in the Heavens³⁹, is a perfect One.

³⁷ perfect' – *that is*, 'fully mature' or 'without spot or blemish'.

³⁸ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'just as' instead of 'as'.

³⁹ 85% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'the One in the Heavens' instead of 'the heavenly One'.