

Ir-nt-09  
February 25-March 3  
“He Taught Then as One Having Authority”  
Mathew 6-7  
By Lenet Hadley Read

(This material reveals more of the depth of The Sermon on the Mount)

- I. Again, the Sermon on the Mount had far greater importance than usually recognized.
- A. **It was Jehovah on a New Mount to offer His New Covenant to His New Israel.**
1. As at Mt. Sinai, the Lord covenanted that if men will do certain things, He will **reward them** with certain blessings: Entrance into His Promised Land.
  2. In this sermon, He teaches those who do God’s will and **for the right reasons will receive great rewards**, while those who appear to worship God, but only “to be seen of men,” will only receive pitiful, earthly rewards.
  3. His sermon ends with powerful warnings that **only those** who truly **Do His Will**, will be counted among His people.
    - a. In 7:13-20 He states that His servants can only truly be judged “**by their fruits**” (**meaning their good works!**)
    - b. In 7:21-23 He shows *claiming* to worship is not enough. **Works are vital**. “Not every man that *saith* unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, **but he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.”
      1. Note that the **consequence of not doing** is to be cast out! (v. 23).
    - c. In 7:24-29 He gives His climactic parable that only he who does God’s will is truly built upon a rock and will endure!
- B. Thus much of The Sermon on the Mount is about **Doing, what our motivation should be for Doing**, and the **rewards** for Doing.

II. Some Christians take the later words of Paul to mean that obedience does not really matter. That man is saved only by Grace. (Misunderstanding Paul teachings).

A. However, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is the Master. As pointed out clearly in the end: “He taught as One Having Authority.” For indeed His authority is prime!

B. So we should take seriously the Lord’s stressing that while His Grace is absolutely necessary for both our Salvation and our Exaltation, we will be additionally “Rewarded” for our obedience and “Doing the Father’s Will.”

C. Many have misunderstood the emphasis put on works among Latter-day Saints.

**D. Latter-day Saints do not do works to save ourselves. The works we do are to help the Lord to save others!**

1. We do this by seeking to spread the Gospel throughout the world. We do this by doing saving works for the dead. We do this by seeking to feed and strengthen others both physically and spiritually.

2. **Most Latter-day Saints who do these things do so at great personal cost and sacrifice.**

Furthermore, most would do these things if no rewards were promised at all! For they know, like Jesus Christ, that doing good works is Doing the Father's Will.

III. The Savior also taught men to pray, not to be seen of men, but to truly seek God.

A. He gave an **exemplary prayer, also stressing the importance of Doing God's Will.**

B. As He told us to pray in like manner, we can form similar prayers using similar concepts, without repeating His prayer verbatim. [As rote repetition tends to deaden feeling and sincerity, becoming also, as He warned, "vain repetition"].

C. Here are suggested ways we can make His words our own.

1. "Our Father who art in Heaven"

\* We should indeed address God as our Father.

2. "Hallowed by thy name."

\* We can acknowledge in our own words the sacredness of His name, and commit ourselves to keeping it Holy.

3. "Thy kingdom come"

\* We **can actually pray for His Second Coming.** In fact some of our prophets have encouraged us to do so.

4. "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

\* In pleading for His Coming, we are pleading for that time when all men will do His Will. So we can express our longing for that time, which helps us to do His will now,

5. "Give us this day our daily bread."

\* We can acknowledge all that we receive every day comes from Him, and pray that He will continue to sustain us, physically, but **more importantly, spiritually.**

6. "**Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**"

\* We can acknowledge that the blessings we ask are contingent on how we bless the lives of others, **particularly when it comes to forgiving so that we can be forgiven!**

7. "Suffer us not to be led into temptation. Deliver us from evil."

\* We can pledge our desire for obedience, and ask for His help to do so.

8. "**For thine is the kingdom**"

\* We can commit that whatever good we do will be done for the sole purpose of **helping to build up His Kingdom.**

9. "and the power"

\* We can acknowledge that all ultimate power is and will continue to be His.

10. "and the glory forever."

\* We can commit that all we do will be done to glorify Him.

C. Immediately after giving us this beautiful prayer, the Savior **pointed to its crux: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"** (Matthew 7:14-15).

IV. Jesus also taught about prayer through His example.

A. Jesus often rose up early and went to pray in secret (Mark 1:35).

B. On occasions, He went to a mountain and prayed all night (Luke 6:12).

C. **Jesus' example of prayer is powerful --- as shown to me by an artist.**

Sculptress Angela Johnson has done a masterful representation of several events in Christ's Life. They are now set in a garden called "The Light of the World" in the Ashton Gardens in Lehi UT. Each is larger than life. They are all marvelous, and very touching.

One is of Jesus praying. He is praying while standing, with His face upraised. As I look close at His face, I realize the artist **has captured Him in the process of receiving light from His Father**. It brought to mind times when I had looked up to let the concentrated warm rays of the Sun penetrate my physical body and soul after a time of being deprived of light or warmth. I recognized from His stance and facial expression that **Christ was receiving Intelligence and the Radiance of Love from a far greater source than the Sun**.

She also included a noticeable flaring of His cloak. I had at first assumed it was a movement caused by the wind. Then I sensed it was not the wind, but something far greater. I feel the artist was conveying **movement such as caused by a charge of electricity. But this charge of energy was purely spiritual energy received from God!**

Here, I now realized, was a very insightful portrayal of Jesus receiving communication from His Father. In its quiet majesty, it had captured **Jesus praying and then receiving His Father's full light, His Father's vast knowledge, His Father's deepest Love.**

**Thus He truly could teach "As One Having Authority!"**

V. The Lord warned about the dangers of judging.

A. The JST says that in some few cases we must judge, but to judge righteously.

B. We should realize this is allowed only when necessary:

1. Those with stewardships in the church must sometimes make difficult judgments.
2. Joseph Smith once found he had misjudged the twelve apostles, due to false reports made of them. He vowed he would never judge again until he had the opportunity to seek the full truth --- including giving those judged an opportunity to answer the accusations.

C. **In the Lord's sermon, He is making clear that for the average member, we will be wise to withhold judgment of others at all.** In fact His warnings in this regard are so powerful that we should not dismiss them.

1. "Judge not that ye be not judged. For what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.,

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

"Or how wilt thou say to thy brother Let me pull out the mote out of thine eyes; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out he mote out of thy brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1-5).

D. In fact, of **all the sins that good Latter-days Saints may commit, I suspect this is the most common we make.**

And as the Savior made clear, how we have judged others will greatly affect how we are judged when we stand before the Judgment Bar of God.