**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Sermon**

**The Incarnation – Part XVI**

***Sermon on the Mount***

***“Prayer of the Son of David”***

**March 17th, In the Year of Our Lord 2024**

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(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted – New American Standard

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As we continue our reading of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, we need to keep in mind that this is God’s first major address (sermon) as Jesus, the Messiah of Isaiah 53, in His three and one-half-year ministry. And we know from other New Testament Scriptures that Jesus preached the content of this sermon many times.

It is imperative to recognize that the Jewish audience had been groomed by a strong religious cultural tradition to anticipate a Messiah who would deliver them from their political/military occupiers and oppressors which in the 1st century was Rome. So, when Jesus begins His sermon and says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:3-5) . . . the Jewish audience had to have been, to some degree, confused. Jesus’ words were in contrast to a military leader like Moses who constantly fought wars with Hebrew enemies during the Exodus and Wilderness journey years. In contrast to Joshua who was directed by God to militarily defeat the idol-worshipping pagans in an effort to secure the Promised Land. In contrast to King David, who was known to be a man of much bloodshed who did defeat the enemies of God. No, Jesus, as they would come to learn, said to Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world (John 8:23, 18:36).

What can we learn from the Old Testament that will highlight the Jewish anticipation of a military/political *Deliverer*? We know that at some point in time the Jews anticipated a Messiah that would be associated with King David. In fact, Matthew starts his Gospel narrative with a reference to Jesus as the “son of David” and Abraham (Matthew 1:1). This must have been a common view of the anticipated Messiah because people called Jesus the “son of David” (Matthew 9:27, 12:23, 15:22, 20:30, 21:5,9). In Matthew 22:42-46, it is evident that Jesus used this known title (son of David) when He challenges the Pharisees . . . ,

42 "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son* of David." 43 He said to them,

"Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 44 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET "'? [A Psalm of David - Psalm 110:1]

45 "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

46 No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

The Hebrew Bible contains references to a Messiah who will rule on the throne of David (Isaiah 9:6-7).

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

. . .and to a future restoration of the House of David (Amos 9:11).

"In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old;

. . . and even to one "called to be ruler" in Israel coming from Bethlehem, the birthplace of David (Micah 5:2).

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

So, we see in the Old Testament texts there are both the military/political *Deliverer* like King David and the suffering Messiah of Isaiah 53 who is also associated with David. I have said previously that every nation needs a God called military/political *Deliverer*. But, at the same time, the entirety of fallen humanity must have a Savior to pay the price for the sins of the world. . . a price that fallen humanity could never pay. A person like King David was disqualified from being a *Spiritual* *Deliverer,* because he was a man of much bloodshed and sin. Some may read 2 Samuel 7:12-14 and associate a reference to Jesus Christ.

12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, (2 Sam. 7:12-14)

Then note in verse 14 that this man who is to be a “son” is one that has “iniquity”. Jesus Christ was sinless (Isaiah 53:9, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 3:5, 1 Peter 2:22, Hebrews 4:15). Samuel’s reference is to Solomon, the son of David.

Therefore, due to the Roman occupation and oppression, when Jesus came to be a known healer and preacher, there was a greater anticipation for Jesus to fulfill the military/political role of Messiah. So, when Matthew recorded Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. . . there is not any doubt that the Messiah-needy Jews took notice of a different agenda Jesus preached than one of gathering the troops and ousting the Romans.

**Reflections on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 6**

In Jesus’ opening remarks in His Sermon on the Mount, He preaches a traditional Jewish sermon calling for *blessings.* Jesus thencalls for the people to be the *salt* and *light* of the world and informs the people that He did not come to change the *Law* but to fulfill the *Law*. However, they would soon learn what Jesus meant by fulfilling the *Law* which was also in contrast to their understanding of the *Law’s* original intent. In Matthew 5:20, Jesus challenges the Jewish audience that their righteousness has to surpass that of the scribes and the Pharisees, or they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. In Matthew 6:1ff, Jesus continues to call-out the scribes and the Pharisees by giving another clarification of the *Law* warning them not to practice being righteous before others in order to be noticed which is another observation about their religious leaders. Jesus gives detailed examples in Matthew 6:1-4 illustrating how not to give to the poor to be noticed and He adds how not to pray in the synagogue or on the street corner to be noticed. . .which are all the prideful habits of the religious leaders (scribes and Pharisees).

**Matthew 6:1** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

"Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

'Give us this day our daily bread.

'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

From this prayer, we are called to seek and to fulfill the teachings of Jesus. In order for us to have an opportunity to achieve God’s plan in our lives, Jesus directs us to pray. Matthew 6:9-13 has been called the “Lord’s Prayer,” the “Model Prayer” . . .which contains all the elements we need to address our Creator. There is a reflection upon the Ten Commandments particularly 1-2. In this prayer outline . . .

**We** recognize who God is and acknowledge His heaven and name and all that He has graciously afforded us.

**We** are not called to pray to anyone/anything else nor is it to our benefit to pray to a false being. We shall have no other allegiances to pray.

**We** acknowledge that the Kingdom of God is coming. Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world but He is ushering in His kingdom through the lives of Believers.

**We** acknowledge that God’s will is to be done in our lives as His will is lived in heaven.

**We** acknowledge that God is the sole provider of not only our temporal life food but our sole source of spiritual life which has an eternal destiny.

**We** acknowledge the primary need for fallen humanity is to be forgiven and to forgive others.

**We** acknowledge that God is not the one who tempts/test us to do evil but He affords us the opportunity to be delivered from evil. In this acknowledgement, of the need to be delivered from evil, we call to the Cross and it’s saving redemptive, atoning, power to forgive and restore all of fallen humanity to be approved by God.

**9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.**

**Isaiah 64:8** But now, O LORD, **You are our Father**, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

**Jeremiah 3:19** "Then I said, How I would set you among My sons And give you a pleasant land, The most beautiful inheritance of the nations! And I said, **You shall call Me, My Father**, And not turn away from following Me.

**10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Psalm 135:6** Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, **In heaven and in earth**, in the seas and in all deeps.

**Daniel 4:35** "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, **But He does according to His will** in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, What have You done?

**Hebrews 13:21** equip you in every good thing **to do His will, working in us** that which is pleasing in His sight, **through Jesus Christ**, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**11 'Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Exodus 16:4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion **every day**, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

**Deuteronomy 8:3** "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone**, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.**

**Matthew 4:4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

**Jeremiah 15:16** Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

**12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**Psalm 32:1** A Psalm of David. A Maskil. How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

**Psalm 25:11** For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

**Mark 11:25** "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. 26 "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

**Matthew 18:21** Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

**Luke 11:4** And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation. "

**Luke 17:3** "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

**Colossians 3:13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

**13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'**

Reading more of God’s Word will bring-out the fuller meaning of this verse. God will not tempt someone to do evil but He will test someone in order to grow their faith. One of the best examples is when God challenged Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in Genesis 22:1. God’s goal was not for Abraham to sin but test his faith. God’s intent was never to have Isaac sacrificed but to show Abraham that He was not like the man-made idols to whom fallen people sacrificed their children. God sought Abraham’s heart-faith and not his works (Romans 4).

**Genesis 22:1** Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Some of the New Testament teachings on testing faith is in the book of James and 1 Peter. We read the context in these Scriptures is one who is being tested/tempted by the fallen world to produce the outcome of sin. . . which leads to separation from God and eternal death.

**James 1:** 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and

complete, lacking in nothing.

**1 Peter 1:7** so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is

perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory

and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

**1 Peter 5:8** ESV

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (Job 1:6,7)

Conversely from being tested to produce sin, Jesus presented a test to His disciples when there was not enough bread in order for their faith to be built.

**John 6:6** This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

The Old Testament has numerous verses telling us that the Lord will be with us through the fallen world’s tests, trials and tribulations. We know that the devil will place temptations in front of us with the goal for us to sin against God and our neighbor. Therefore, these Scripture declarations must be seen in the context of God’s eternal plan for all humanity which is to be with Him for an eternity, an eternal life beyond this one.

**Psalm 37:28** ESV For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

God’s promises in the Old and New Testament point to our eternal preservation.

**Ephesians 1:7-14** 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

We also need to recognize that there are times when God will physically protect us from harm that the fallen world produces. . . like He protected the Hebrews in the Exodus from Pharoah in order to achieve His eternal purpose. I see that God’s Apostles understood His allowance of pain and suffering when they wrote. . .

**Matthew 5:12** "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Luke 6:22,23; Act 5:41).

**Romans 5:3** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

**Romans 8**:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. . . 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

(2 Corinthians 12:10; Hebrews 2:18, 10:34)

**Philippians 2**:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.. . 17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

**James 1:**2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. . . . 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. . . . James 5:11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

**1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

**1 Peter 4:13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

**2 Peter 2:9** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

This leads into a discussion on free-will-choice and the choice for evil that God allows people to access. God does not produce evil or sin but due to His creation of love, which is a choice, love as the highest human value is experienced when chosen over and through sin and death. This is a challenging teaching for many, but then would we rather have a robotic world where no love, joy, gentleness, kindness exists to experience. Jesus’ prayer outline, The Lord’s Prayer, encompasses all the fallen human needs.

**Isaiah 43:2** ESV When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

**Psalm 27:1** ESV Of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**2 Timothy 4:18** ESV The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**