



# MESSAGE GUIDE

MARCH 16, 2025

## “LIKE NO OTHER: PART 2” JESUS THE TEACHER



MATHEW 5-7

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We are in week two of our series, “Like No Other,” and answering the question, what does the Bible teach us about who Jesus is? It teaches us that Jesus is like no other. In this series we’re taking a look at Matthew’s Gospel to learn all we can about this Jesus who has revolutionized the world.

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So, this week, we are looking at Jesus the Teacher. He is a teacher like no other. Without question, Jesus was a Teacher. In fact, He was THE Teacher, as we will soon see.

*“And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.” (Matthew 4:23, ESV)*

*“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.” (Matthew 9:35, ESV)*

*“And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.” (Matthew 22:33, ESV)*

What made Jesus’ teaching so amazing, so enticing, so astonishing? It was revolutionary. It called people to action. It was religious in the sense that it was within the cultural context of Judaism, but it went beyond a mere religious code or system. It got at the heart of humanity—who we are; the larger truths about reality—who is God and what is truth. And the more we stay true to the central message of Jesus’ teaching, the more we will be transformed and will participate in Jesus’ revolution here and around the world.

### **1. WHAT ABOUT JESUS’ TEACHING DO YOU FIND AMAZING, ENTICING, OR ASTONISHING? WHAT IS ONE EXAMPLE?**

There is MUCH of Jesus’ teaching we could dive into, but let’s take a look at what is perhaps the largest corpus of Jesus’ teaching in Matthew’s Gospel recorded in Matthew 5-7, what is known as the Sermon on the Mount.



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Matthew gives the prelude to Jesus' teaching when he writes, "Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:"

**(Matthew 5:1-2, ESV)**

- What it means to live a blessed life **(5:3-12)**
- What it means to be salt and light **(5:13-16)**
- Jesus fulfills the Law **(5:17-20)**
- Anger, Lust, Divorce, Oaths, Retaliation, Love your enemies **(5:21-48)**
- Generosity, Prayer, Fasting, Trust, Worry **(6:1-34)**
- Judging, Asking, Seeking, Following, Fruit, Obedience **(7:1-27)**.

And then at the end of Jesus' teaching, Matthew records, "And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes."

**(Matthew 7:28-29, ESV).**

Once again, people were astonished at Jesus' teaching, for He taught as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. In other words, there was something different about Jesus' teaching. Typically, scribes—teachers of the Law in Judaism—would expound upon what others said and wrote about the Law. They would interpret the interpreters and base their conclusions on the authority of well-known and widely approved rabbis. Jesus, on the other hand, spoke from His own authority on what it means to be righteous. Everything in Jesus' teaching in these three chapters gets at the heart of what it means to be righteous (in right standing with God).

The blessed life, the moral code, religious practices—all of these descriptions of righteousness—had meaning both to the first-century Jew and to us today.

Who doesn't want to live a blessed life? And how do we define that? For the most part, the same way a first-century Jew would—you have good health, prosperity, a family. But then Jesus comes along and says a blessed life can include suffering, hungering and thirsting, even persecution.

## 2. HOW DOES JESUS' DEFINITION OF A "BLESSED LIFE" CHALLENGE YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING?

But what if you are grieving, hungering, thirsting, suffering, maybe even persecuted, and you don't feel very blessed? But then this Teacher comes along who's radically different than any other teacher, and He's healed "every disease and every affliction among the people" **(Mt. 4:23)**, and He has this authority that no one has ever seen, and He says, "You can live a blessed life." "You mean even in my sorrow? Even in my pain? Even in my



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suffering?” Yes, because Blessing is not dependent upon external circumstances. There is something deeper, more substantive, trans-temporal going on here. And I want to learn more.

Jesus comes along and says that “blessing” is not a moral equation within religion: Do the right things and God will bless your life. Blessing, according to Jesus, isn’t limited to physical prosperity. It is about a prosperity of the soul, our true person, who lives forever.

Now, all of this, from Matt. 5:1-12 flows into the rest of Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. What does this blessed life look like? It’s how we live in faith and trust and understand (and apply) this key principle Jesus taught: Righteousness is about right believing and right living through a right relationship with Jesus.

## 3. WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF “RIGHT BELIEVING?”

Yes, righteousness is about right believing, but it’s also about right living. It’s about how we treat others, our sexual ethic, that our words matter, how we respond when we’re poorly treated, and how we love our enemies. All of this is found in Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6. This is where Jesus emphasizes that righteousness is not just about the surface of, “I’m a good person in right standing with God, because I didn’t break the sixth commandment and kill someone.” Jesus says true righteousness is not just about what you don’t do (e.g. don’t kill, don’t commit adultery) but about what is going on in your heart.

And it’s the same thing with our religious practices—giving, praying, fasting (Matthew 6). According to Jesus, righteousness is not just in doing those things but it’s in HOW we do those things, with humility and trust. Which leads us not to be anxious, not to judge others, and how bearing fruit (being righteous) is not just in fulfilling these mighty, religious acts of prophesying or casting out demons, but it’s when our hearts are aligned with God’s Kingdom of peace, joy, and love here on earth as it is in heaven. All of this is in Mt. 7. Then Jesus brings it to a full stop with the matter of complete trust and obedience to Him. **Read Matthew 7:24-27.**

We have so much uncertainty and instability in our world, and, if we’re honest, we feel it at times in our lives. We all want a stable life, but HOW do we get there, because it sure doesn’t look like the answers are found in all the things we tend to chase after—a better paying job, a better president, better global markets. So, where do we find that “rock” that we can build our house on, so that when the rain falls and the floods come and the winds blow and beat against our house, it stands firm? Jesus said, “*He who hears these words of mine and does them....*” Jesus the TEACHER. No wonder people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority. He has the words of life!



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## 4. WHAT WORDS HAS JESUS TAUGHT YOU THAT YOU ARE HEARING BUT NOT DOING?

This blessed life, this full life we've been talking about flows out of a righteous person. That righteous person is someone who believe and lives through the only Person who is truly righteous—Jesus Christ. Earlier in Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5, He said, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* (**Matthew 5:17, ESV**). He is the fulfillment of all righteousness, which leads to living that blessed and full life that can withstand whatever storms may come your way.

A blessed life, a righteous life, comes through believing and living in step with the only one who is righteous, Jesus Christ. The Gospel, the Good News, is that Jesus has made the way for us to be reconciled to God and to live that blessed life—even in the face of suffering in this life. He died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead conquering death and the grave forever. And all who receive Him, all who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God (**Jn. 1:12**).

Next Steps:

1. If you're ready to learn more about what it means to take your next step with Jesus, text "FOLLOW" to 317-707-6462 , and we'll reach out to you.
2. If you would like to connect with others in a small group to continue studying and following Jesus the Teacher, text "GROUPS" to the same number.