Matthew Chapter 5

* Beginning of the Sermon on the Mount
  + Largest collection of teachings from Jesus

5:2-12

* Beatitudes
  + The prescription for spiritual happiness
* Not a list of things you have to be
  + A list of good news
* God welcomes and blesses all even those pushed aside by society or disregarded
* Rome is a world that values power, wealth, and status
* Jesus’ kingdom is a “new world” turned on its head
* These blessings name the distressing consequences of Roman rule and promise God’s victory over it

5:7-12

* These five beatitudes bless the social actions of the alternative community
* Persecution is the inevitable action when the powerful elite are challenged

* Poor in spirit= those crushed by Roman rule
* Those who mourn= Sadness or oppression from roman rule (not necessarily death)
* meek= those who do not vie for power
* Hunger and thirst for righteousness= those cast out by the priests and pharisees who just want to draw close to God

5:13-16

* What is the difference between light shining and the actions of the heathens?
  + Way of life
  + Heathens search for praise from those around them
    - They make a scene and call attention to themselves
  + Living as light means doing things without calling attention to yourself
    - Light sometimes goes unnoticed
    - Light draws attention through its glow in the night as opposed to screaming for attention
    - Light helps to guide people

5:17-20

* Jesus has come to fulfill the law
  + “Fulfillment language”
* Jesus takes these commands of the law and makes them heart issues
  + This is Jesus interpreting scripture

5:21-48

* Initial principals
* Jesus teaches the law
  + Anger
    - The law says do not murder, I say do not let anger and quarl rest in your heart
  + Adultery
    - The law says do not commit adultery, I say do not even look at another person lustfully
  + Divorce
    - The law says to give a certificate to your wife if you divorce, I say if you divorce your wife (except for unfaithfulness) you cause her to commit adultery.
    - Anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery
  + Oaths
    - The law says do not swear falsely (tell the truth), I say do not swear at all.
      * Let your word be your integrity
      * Yes and No
  + Retaliation
    - The law says “eye for and eye, tooth for a tooth,” I say do not seek retaliation for action taken against you
      * This old testament commandment was written so that people did not exceed punishment
        + Ex. A goat was killed and retaliation was killing the offenders family
      * The law was made so the punishment fit the crime
  + Love for enemies
    - The law says love your neighbor and hate your enemy, I say love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

**Jesus took commands that could easily be followed by anyone and turned them into commands that took intentional action which went against some of the norms in Jewish society.**