

Sermon On The Mount

“A Greater Challenge”

Text: [Matthew 5:17-20](#)

Introduction

People have taken on great challenges in life:

- In August 1973, eight-year-old Samantha White of Steilacoon, Washington, climbed to the top of 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro. She is believed to be the youngest person ever to conquer Africa’s highest mountain.
- After satisfying himself that there must be some absolute limits to human strength, speed, agility and endurance, Brutus Hamilton, coach of the U.S. Olympic team many years ago, compiled a list of what he considered to be the “ultimate” in track and field performances. No one, said Hamilton out of confidence based on long experience, would ever run the 100-yard dash in less than 9.2 sec. or the mile in less than 3 min. 57.8 sec. No one would ever put the shot more than 62 ft., throw the discus more than 200 ft., do better than 7 ft. 1 in high jump, 27 ft. in the long jump, or 16 ft. in the pole vault. Since then, in every case, someone has.

The challenge for today is righteousness

1. Fulfill All Righteousness (17-18)

Jesus Fulfilled The Old Covenant— “Till Heaven And Earth Pass Away

[Deuteronomy 5:1-3](#) *The Ten Commandments were the Old Covenant, 2 Tables of stone/covenant*

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) *The Promise of The New Covenant different from Old Covenant*

Jesus Established The New Covenant— “Till All is fulfilled”

[Hebrews 8:6-13](#) *Christ fulfilled the Old Covenant and started The New Covenant*

[Hebrews 9:16-17](#) For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

[John 19:30](#) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Jesus Has Sown The Seed, Now He Is Waiting For The Harvest!

2. Keep All Righteousness (19)

Yet Many Mold Righteousness Around Their Lives

[Mark 7:9](#) He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

Former President Clinton Did It Well! “What do you mean by alone?” “It depends on your definition of sexual activity!”

What Words Do WE Redefine?

[Ephesians 5:3-4](#) But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, *let it not even be named among you*, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

3. Exceed Their Righteousness (20)

Pharisees Were The Religious Leaders Of The Day! Jesus Said Exceed Their Righteousness!

Before I was a preacher: I remember thinking preachers were not regular people; that they were somehow better than others. I remember thinking that preachers were more righteous, more godly, more holy! They had to be, because they read the Bible more than others. They were in the leadership of the church. It even took me a good decade or more before I even “felt” like a preacher. When I heard people say, “Hey, preacher!” I thought they were talking to someone else!

I know that some people think I am somehow holier, more righteous and more godly than everyone at church. Even though I know it is untrue, people still think that.

But Look At The Greater Challenge He Gave:

What if Jesus appeared and said, “You have to exceed the righteousness of the preacher!”

[Matthew 23:13-36](#) *He condemned the Pharisees because they tried to establish their OWN righteousness!*

[Romans 10:1-4](#) Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

In Christ Our Righteousness Exceeds All Other Righteousness!

Conclusion:

We Are Not Challenged To Climb A Mountain But To: Let Your BEHAVIOR Be IN Christ

[Ephesians 5:8](#) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

We Are Not Challenged To Run The 4 Minute Mile But To: Let Your WORDS Be IN Christ

[Ephesians 4:29](#) Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

We Are Not Challenged To High Jump 7’ But To: Let Your THOUGHTS Be IN Christ

[Philippians 4:8](#) Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—THINK on these things.