**Christianity – Simple or Complicated? #3**

***One Bright Day In the Middle of the Night***

*Let’s watch a video together…*

*My response or reaction to the video is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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Christianity, Counter-Cultural and Counterintuitive

*My response or reaction to this subtitle is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Before we explore the rest of this lesson, we should probably read this.*

**Matthew 4 – Jesus Work Begins – On Any Given Day…**

12When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. 13Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum,

17From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

*On any given day\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*We should also talk about this…*

**True or False -** *One of the most important reasons Christians should read and reread the New Testament is to understand how Jesus wants us to live.*

**1 John 2 – “Whoever claims to live in him must…”**

3We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5But if anyone obeys his word, love for God] is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

*Anyone that claims to be a Christian must\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Now let’s begin to read the Beatitudes..*

**Matthew 5 - An Interesting Way To Begin A Sermon**

1When Jesus saw the crowds,

*Sorry to interrupt, but this is important. Who made up, “the crowds?” Let’s see…*

**Matthew 4 – The Crowds**

18As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20At once they left their nets and followed him.

21Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

*Some of “the crowds” were\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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23Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

*Some of “the crowds” were\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*What did these people, all of whom were living in the*

*Roman Empire, have in common?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Why was it important to interrupt the beginning of The Sermon on the Mount, to read a few verses from chapter*

*4?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Let’s rewind and restart the sermon.*

**Matthew 5 – Rewinding and Restarting**

1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2and he began to teach them.

He said:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
4Blessed are those who mourn,  
    for they will be comforted.  
5Blessed are the meek,  
    for they will inherit the earth.  
6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
    for they will be filled.  
7Blessed are the merciful,  
    for they will be shown mercy.  
8Blessed are the pure in heart,  
    for they will see God.  
9Blessed are the peacemakers,  
    for they will be called children of God.  
10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*What do these 13 verses contain that teach us how Jesus*

*wants us to live?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*For Next Week – Spend some time in The Beatitudes. (Matthew 5:1-13) Do you understand them? Do they contain the same message for us as they did for “the crowds?” We’ll see…*

*In the meantime, email ne your comments and questions,* [*dmannrgv@gmail.com*](mailto:dmannrgv@gmail.com)