

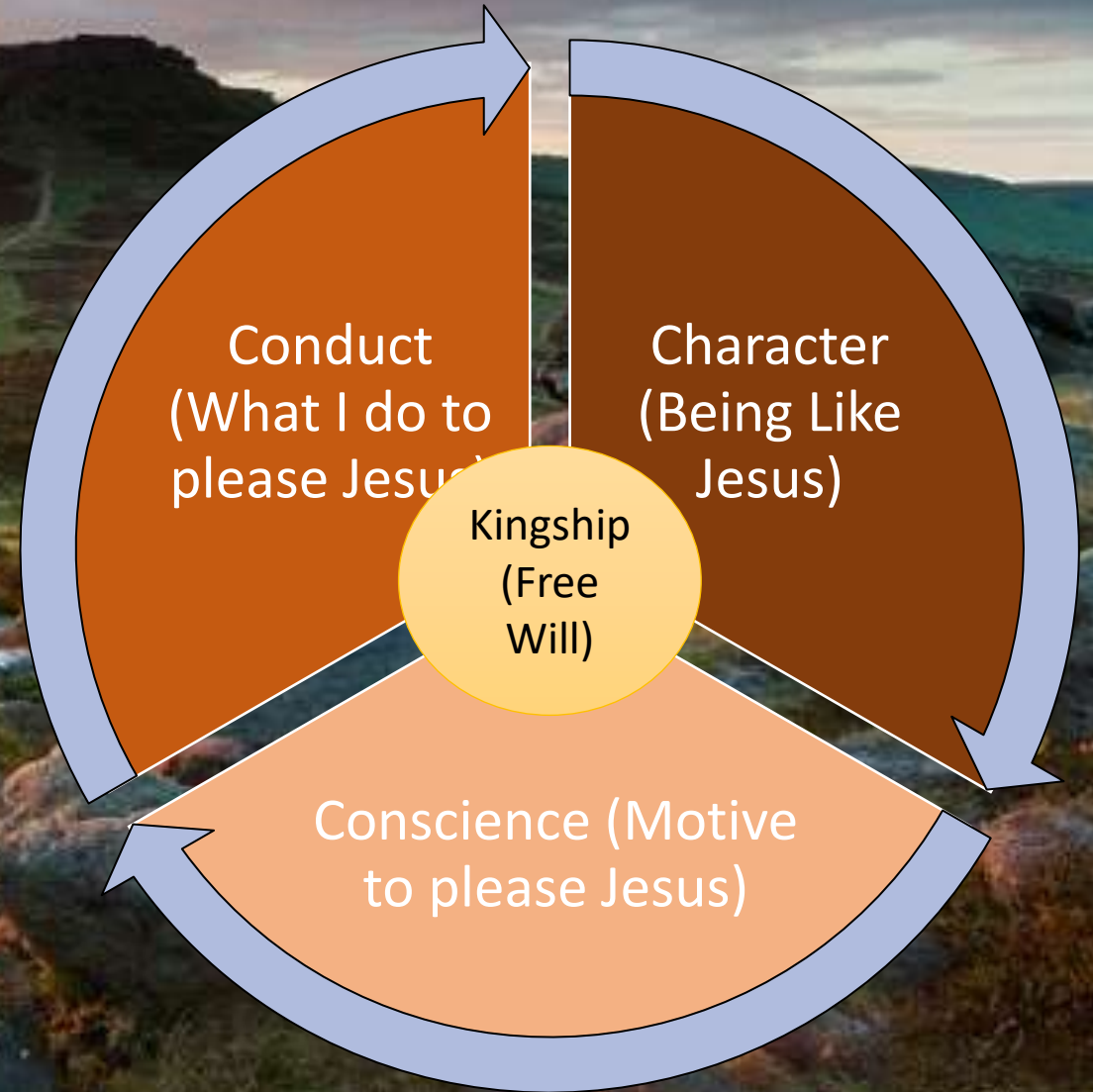
Prayer Requests

SERMON

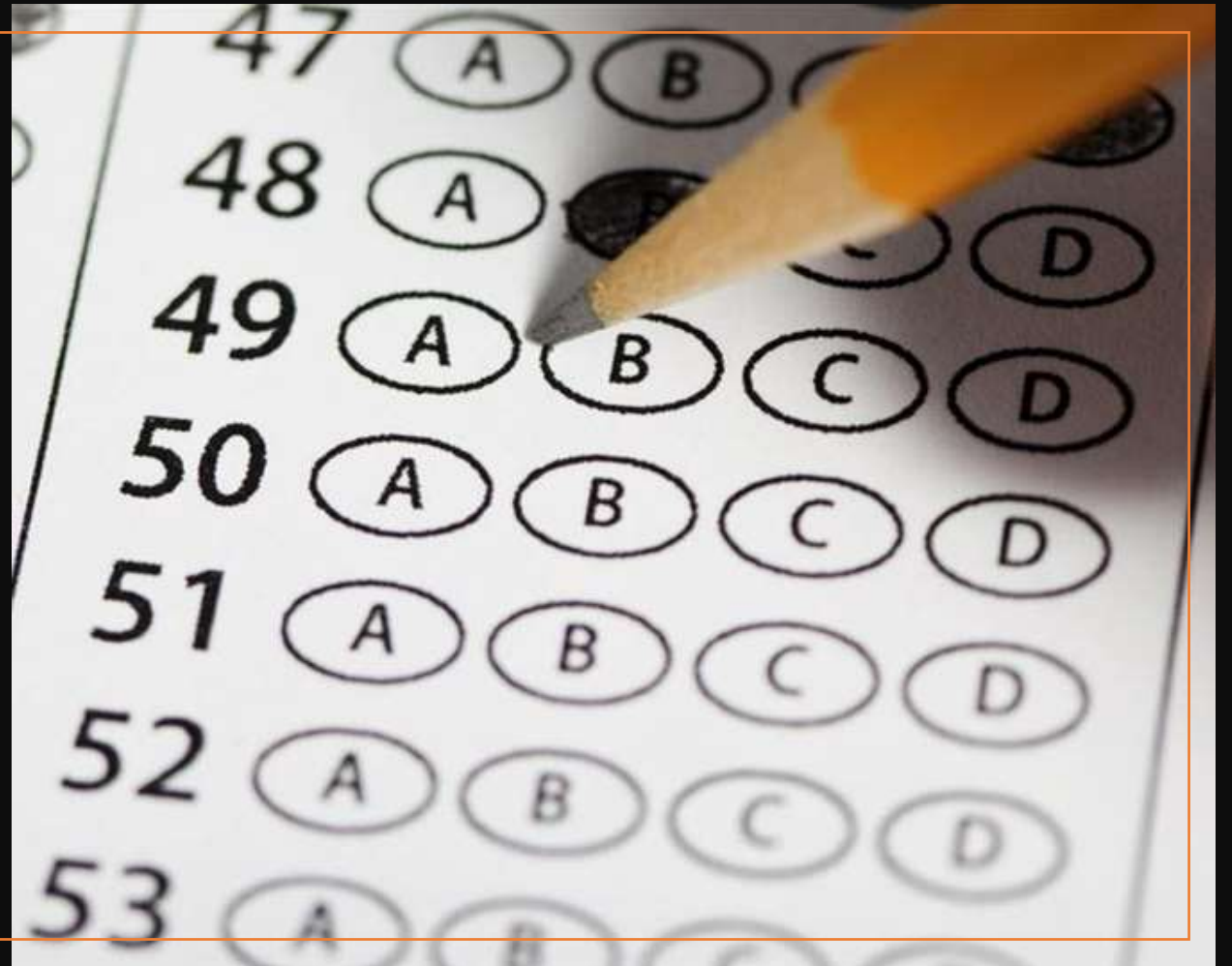
On the

MOUNT

Week 16 – How shall we then live?



“If there is a theme,
a current running
through the entire
Sermon on the
Mount, what would
you say it is?”



It is your choice

It is your decision

It is your free will!

- You can choose to be blessed – 5:2-12
- You can choose to be the salt 5:13-16
- You can choose have a greater righteousness 5:17-20
- You can choose not to murder 5:21-27
- You can choose not to commit adultery 5:27-30
- You can choose not to divorce 5:31-32
- You can choose not to break your oaths 5:33-37
- You can choose not to seek revenge 5:38-42
- You can choose not to love your enemies 5:43-48
- You can choose to support the needy 6:1-5

- You can choose to pray to God 6:6-15
- You can choose to fast 6:16-18
- You can choose to treasure heavenly treasures 6:19-21
- You can choose to have single vision 6:24
- You can choose to serve one master 6:25
- You can choose to not worry 6:26-34
- You can choose to not judge your brothers 7:1-8
- You can choose to seek after God 7:7-12
- You can choose to enter the right gate 7:13-14
- You can choose to discover false prophets 7:15-20
- You can choose to be a true disciple 7:21-23
- You can choose to build correctly 7:24-27
- You can choose to be astonished 7:28

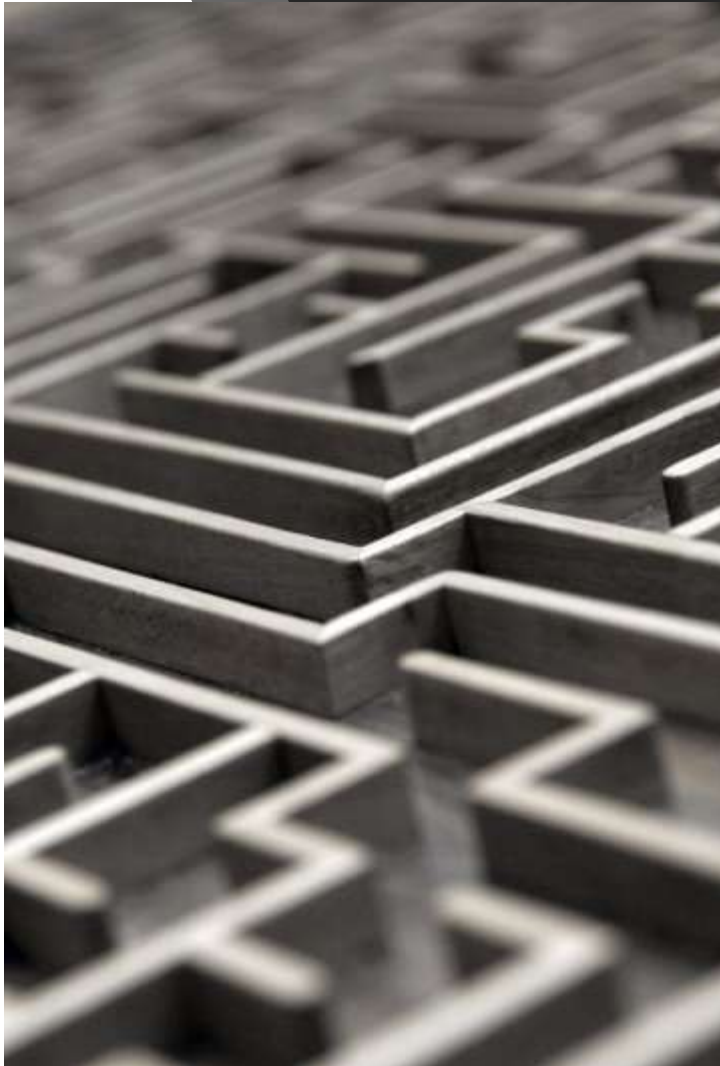
What the Sermon on the Mount is telling us?

- It is all about choices **YOU** make
- It is all about **YOUR** free will to choose **YOUR** destiny
- It is all about **YOU** seeing the alternatives and making a logical, emotional, spiritual choice.
- **YOU CAN CHOOSE!!!**

Choice is allowed by Free Will

Free will requires:

- intentional, goal-directed agency
 - It depends upon my purpose holistically, desires, wishes, purpose objective
 - And my action or thought is driven by this Goal, it is not random, or fateful
- Alternative possibilities
 - There is more than one possible choice
 - I can choose to not to choose
 - It must be possible for me to do something else
 - I can cause a different choice to be considered.



Tonight's lesson is also about a choice

- The entirety of the Sermon on the Mount is about choice.
 - Choice of the disciples to BE something Kingdom of Heaven Citizens
 - Choice of the disciples to DO as revealed to them.
 - Choice of the disciples to be MOTIVATED by the spirit of God.
- Tonight the choice no longer about quantity
 - What to do with treasure
 - What to do with prayer
 - What to do with gifting
- Tonight is about an exclusionary, one or the other choice.

Change in audience focus

- Up to this point most of the sermon was pointed at the few.
 - Pointed to a small number of devoted followers
 - Toward the disciples
 - Toward you and I
 - Toward the Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven
- But here Jesus stops and takes a breath and looks at the crowd
 - Full of wonder
 - Full of semi-understanding
 - Full of little snippets and comments (had to be)
- Here he changes from the exclusionary YOU to a all inclusive NO ONE

Matthew 7:24

No one can **serve** two **masters**,
Either you will **hate** the one and
love the other, or you will be
devoted to one and despise the
other. You cannot serve both
God and **money**.

My conclusions from the Words of the Preacher


- All have an ultimate master in our lives.
- It is our choice, but our choices will cause changes in my attitudes.
- Those who claim total freedom and independence are the most enslaved.
- All have problems with money as a master
- Service to God is better than service to self.
- All are fickle and want different masters at different times.



Thoughts?

- Is this portion **only** about money?

How shall we then live?



The treasures
of Earthly life
toward the
Heavenly!

- 1. Time** – earthy time to please God and dedicate to the eternal
- 2. Talent** – The free exercise of our gifts, our talents and our abilities for GOD
- 3. Treasure** – Our earthly possessions used for the furtherance of Love, Hope, Joy, Peace,
- 4. Temple** – The express care and responsibility for our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Truth** – The study and understanding of the intent of God, the Bible
- 6. Thanks** - Our worship and praise is a treasure to be treasured

Next week

Read	Read Matthew 6:25-34 every day as part of your devotions.
Make	Make an effort to consciously and deliberately in every decision you make this week to remember who is Master.
Be	Be ready to discuss the difference between fear and anxiety
Find	Find someone in your world who needs a word of encouragement and provide them with hope and gladness.
Start	Start each day before getting out of bed remind yourself of God's grace and mercy provided for you.
Set	Set your mind on the improvement of personal relationships.

Next week



Memorize Matthew 7:12

Be ready to discuss our place in the judgment process.



When someone is angry, or mean, or disrespectful, be graceful to that person.



Start each day for 2 minutes alone time with God.

Set your focus for the day with the idea of "Treat others as you would like to be treated."