

Amazing Glaze

Week 6: Feb 5-11 – *Matt. 5-8, 11; Luke 6, 7*

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Helpful Resources

Maps of Palestine and Jerusalem (p.47, 48)

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

While we didn't cover a lot of ground this week, we read some of the most amazing passages. For example, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount has been hailed as the greatest teaching of all time. Then, we watched Jesus heal a child from a distance and raise another one during his funeral! The people of that day heard and saw things we can only imagine. How privileged that generation was, to live during the time of the arrival of the Messiah!

Yet, amazingly, for many people, Jesus' ministry was not even a blip on their radar. Their zealous devotion to religious traditions and customs, or their hardened and impenetrable hearts, or their familiarity with Jesus caused them to miss the one who came to save them. It was as if they were stuck in a coma, a lifeless state with glazed eyes, unresponsive to the Lord's work. But then, at the end of the week, we finally met a woman who got it. She demonstrated for us a heart of worship, as one who understood what Jesus had done for her.

- The Message — Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*)

1. **The Beatitudes** (5:2-12): There are blessings of God for demonstrating certain virtues.
2. **Salt and Light** (v.13-16): God's people are to be change agents in a lost world.
3. **Greater Expectations** (v.17-48): Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. He also expanded the law of Moses from external protocols to internal purity.
4. **Avoiding Hypocrisy** (6:1-18): Jesus warned His followers to do things privately that please God, not those things that make us look good in the eyes of others publicly.
5. **Uncommon Sense** (6:19-7:29): Jesus shared great wisdom on several subjects, from money to judgmentalism to worry and prayer. Those who build their lives on His words are setting themselves on a solid foundation.

- The Miracles

Jesus performed two miracles this week, that of healing the son of a Roman officer (*Matt. 8:5-13*) and raising a widow's son from the dead (*Luke 7:11-17*). Both miracles were remarkable in their own way. One person He healed from a long distance, and the other He restored his life while in his coffin. Jesus treated human ailments, and even death, as trivial, which should give us great confidence when dealing with these in our lives.

- The Misses
 1. **The Faith of a Gentile** (*Matt. 8:10-12*): When He healed the centurion's son, Jesus stated that He hadn't seen faith like his in all of Israel. Then, He prophesied that many Gentiles would believe in Jesus and join Him in the kingdom of heaven. However, He also prophesied that many Jews would miss their opportunity and live forever apart from Him.
 2. **John's Confusion** (*Matt. 11:1-10*): After John the Baptist was imprisoned, He began to question if Jesus were really the Messiah. He was expecting Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom, but when He didn't, John became disillusioned. The Jews knew the prophecies, and they believed that the Messiah would rescue them from their enemies when He came. However, though Jesus would fulfill the prophecies, He did it with two advents, not one.
 3. **Cranky Kids** (*Matt. 8:16-19*): Jesus described the generation that saw Him as children who complain about everything and everyone. They were the hard soil rejecting the Word.
 4. **Amazing Glaze** (*Matt. 11:20-24*): Jesus performed miracles in several cities, but the people did not respond to the gospel. It was as if they were in a coma, breathing but with glazed eyes and a dazed, lifeless expression. Jesus condemned their indifferent trance.

- Personal Application
 1. **American Apathy**: Though Americans were once receptive to the truths of the gospel, today we are in a collective coma. In large part, the American church is cold, lifeless, unrepentant, and ineffective. What would Jesus say about your church if He were to walk among your people? Would they welcome Him, praise Him, and follow Him gladly, or would they be distracted and disinterested? What would it take to revive your church?
 2. **A Heart of Worship** (*Luke 7:36-50*): A sinful woman wept at Jesus' feet and anointed Him with perfume. She worshiped Him humbly and sincerely because she recognized that her great debt of sin had been forgiven. What was different about her than the rest of the Jews? Why was she so genuine when everyone else was so cold?

The Bottom Line

Those who are apathetic towards Jesus have not fully recognized what He has done for them.

Questions to Consider

1. Can you confirm the "amazing glaze" in the people around you, a lifeless, cold, unrepentant apathy about spiritual things? How have they become like that?
2. Evaluate your church from 0-10 on the "Glaze Meter." Is it full of people who are faithless, confused, cranky, or comatose? Or are the people genuinely grateful and responsive to the Lord's leading and work in their lives? Is their worship lively or lifeless?
3. Evaluate your worship. How responsive are you to the Lord right now? Why is that?
4. With which of the beatitudes do you most struggle? Explain why.
5. Jesus expanded the law to apply to our thoughts and motives. Which area do you find most challenging? What steps are you taking to address it?
6. How are you doing avoiding hypocrisy? Have you ever done things simply for public recognition? Why do we desire the recognition of people other than God alone?
7. Jesus shared a great deal of wisdom in the Sermon on the Mount. What did He teach that encouraged you most? What did He teach that challenged you most?