

Word Wednesday #22: In His Dust

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Talmidim trust in God more and politics less

- “It is by trusting in the Lord and the meekness of His ways, not through the sword of politics, that the land is won.”
- **Zechariah 4:6** Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

1

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Talmidim desire justice

- “Jesus equates the soul’s desire for justice with the unrelenting physical desire for food and water, and He promises that it will be quenched.”
- **Luke 18:7** And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

2

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Talmidim engage the Old Testament as well as the New

- “To understand Jesus, we must see Him through the lens of the writings of the Law and the Prophets. He is the key to the whole Bible.”
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

3

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Talmidim DO good and ARE good

- “He doesn’t merely desire people who appear good or even those who do good; He wants people who ARE good.”
- **Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

4

Matthew 5:22a But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment...

Talmidim do not contribute to our outrage culture

- “We must resist the temptation to join the advocates of outrage.”
- **James 1:19-20** Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; [20] for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

5

Matthew 5:22b: But I say to you... whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Talmidim recognize every person is valuable

- “We must not allow our loyalty to a certain group or set of ideas to breed contempt for those who disagree with us.”
- **Romans 12:17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

6

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Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Talmidim make the choice not to lust

- “Lust is a choice. It is something we intend. Jesus warns about the deformation that happens when we deliberately pursue lust.”
- **James 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.**

7

Matthew 5:30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Talmidim take sin in our lives seriously

- “Although exaggerated, Jesus’ words are deadly serious. Holiness must transform both our intent and our actions.”
- **Psalms 119:10-11 With my whole heart, I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! [11] I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

8

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

Talmidim love and pray for the people who annoy us

- “There is a significant difference between affirming these ideas and actually living them... It’s impossible to genuinely pray for another, yet continue to hate him or her.”
- **1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.**

9

Matthew 5:43-44 “You have heard it said... hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies

Talmidim value God’s words more than our traditions

- “Very often, what gets Christians into trouble is not holding to God’s commands but holding to faulty assumptions we’ve inferred from God’s commands.”
- **Acts 17:11 Now these Jews (in Berea) ... received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

10

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread

Talmidim are content

- “Will you be content with enough bread for today? Will you slow down? Will you release the worries of this world and find your true life in communion with God?”
- **John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”**

11

Matthew 6:16 “... that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Talmidim avoid showy displays of religiosity

- “The temptation to appear better than we are is always present.”
- “Free yourself from the praise of people.”
- **Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

13

Matthew 6:24 "...You cannot serve God and money (mammon).

Talmidim cannot live with divided loyalties

- "Money can isolate us... it is an alternative to trusting God."
- "The righteous will surrender control to God and use money as a tool to gain more glory for Him."
- **Hebrews 13:5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

14

Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life..."

Talmidim are not enslaved by fear

- Breastplate of St. Patrick exemplifies Jesus' message in the Sermon on the Mount.
- **Luke 12:32** Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.

15

Matthew 7:1-2 "Judge not, that you be not judged..."

Talmidim discern, not condemn

- He does not want us to condemn others, pass final judgment, or declare another person irretrievably guilty. This is the way of the world, not the way of God's Kingdom."
- **1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of human hearts; and then praise will come to each person from God.

16

Matthew 5:44; 7:1 "But I say to you, Love your enemies... Judge not."

Talmidim can't love and condemn at the same time

- It's impossible to ascribe unsurpassable worth to others when you're using others to ascribe worth to yourself."
- **Colossians 3:12-13** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other...

17

Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Talmidim practice self-awareness, not self-righteousness

- It is so easy to see other's faults and so difficult to see our own. Mt. 7:5 is a call to self-awareness rather than self-righteousness.
- **Psalms 26:2** Examine me, LORD, and put me to the test; Refine my mind and my heart.

18

Matthew 7:11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Talmidim don't try to manipulate God in our prayers

- Jesus bestows on us the dignity of children rather than the humiliation of servants
- **Philippians 4:6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

19

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Talmidim prayers are far more powerful than we think

- "Unanswered prayer is not a sign of weakness. Prayer is so powerful, it must be confined, or it 'would destroy us.'"
- "Be grateful, not disappointed – God is demonstrating His complete and utter goodness towards His children."
- **James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much.**

20

Matthew 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Talmidim do what God says

- Jesus did not intend His sermon to be only a beautiful ethical theory or an unattainable ideal. He expects us to do what He taught."
- **James 1:25 But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has continued in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does.**

21

Matthew 7:17-18 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit ... A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit...

Talmidim produce good fruit naturally and effortlessly

- "We live in a self-improvement culture.
- "Jesus presents a different vision of human potential. We become trees rooted in God, nurtured by His Spirit who naturally and effortlessly produce good fruit."
- **Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

22

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Talmidim do more than call Him "Lord"

- "The true lord of our life is revealed by our actions not by our declarations. He must actually be our King."
- **James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

23

Matthew 7:24 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Talmidim have a deep foundation

- "Jesus says it is the secret, hidden reality upon which we construct our identity that matters most."
- **Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

24

Matthew 7:28-29 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Talmidim know Jesus is the smartest person EVER

- "There is no mistaking the seriousness of His commands. Imagine how your life would be different if you took Him at His word. And imagine how our world would be different if those who claimed to follow Jesus actually did."
- **Colossians 1:16-17 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

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