

PUBLISHER'S WORD

*Paradox is truth standing
on her head to attract attention.*

—G. K. Chesterton—
(See chapter 1, page 2.)

FOR over four decades I have heard and read sermons, articles, and books about the great Sermon On the Mount. To the best of my recollection, this book by Dr. John Day, is the best exposition of the doctrine of Christ at His Galilee mountainside teaching and preaching, and we are as delighted to publish it for our own edification as well as yours.

You will be informed and challenged by the author's pastoral care in propounding this paradoxical truth, *Truth Standing On Its Head* (from the world's viewpoint) and by his loving and verse by verse dissection of chapters five, six, and seven from the Gospel of St. Matthew. This is the summation of all the law and the prophets—THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. This discourse is considered the Greatest Sermon Ever Told from the Greatest Story Ever Told—His Story. Here are the essential Commandments for His disciples and for all peoples for all times.

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Prv 4:23, NIV). While the Old Testament revealed the external actions and requirements of the Law-Word of God, the New Testament, upon Christ's incarnation, more completely reveals the internal. Of course, in this life Jesus' teaching is not fully attainable without the power of the Holy Spirit. For He enables believers through Bible study, prayer, and practice by faith—which is obedience to our Heavenly Father. This is the holiness a Holy Lord requires for a relationship with Him in this life and in the life to come, eternally.

This book will help you cut to the heart of the matter, with Christ's very TRUTH. For He said, "I am the Way, the TRUTH, and the Life. No one man comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6, emphasis added).

Noah Webster (in his 1828 *American Dictionary**) relates: *sermon* (*n.*)—a discourse, extemporary address or written, based on Scripture and delivered in public; *sermonize* (*v.*) to preach; to tutor; to teach by instruction and advice. As an illustration, he quotes Dryden:

His preaching much, but more His practice wrought,
A living sermon of the truths He taught.

A proper sermon is educational and inspiring, and thus should be life-changing. Certainly if we heed the Sermon on the Mount, our lives will be changed and we will become ever more suitable vessels of the gospel and ambassadors of His Kingdom.

The great Puritan commentator, Matthew Henry, in his *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, 1840, said this about the Sermon on the Mount, with the eight Beatitudes—the paradoxes, in Matthew 5:3-12:

It is the longest and fullest continued discourse of our Saviour that we have upon record in all the gospels. It is a practical discourse; there is not much of the credenda of Christianity in it—the things to be believed, but it is wholly taken up with the agenda—the things to be done. These Christ began with in His preaching: for if any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God...

The Preacher was our Lord Jesus, the Prince of preachers, the great Prophet of His church, who came into the world to be the Light of the world. The prophets and John had done virtuously in preaching, but Christ excelled them all. He is the eternal Wisdom, that lay in the bosom of the Father, before all worlds, and perfectly knew His will (Jn 1:18); and He is the eternal Word, by whom He has in these last days spoken to us.

The many miraculous cures wrought by Christ in Galilee ...were intended ...to dispose people to receive instructions

* *An American Dictionary of the English Language* by Noah Webster (Facsimile 1828).
Chesapeake, VA: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1967, 1995.

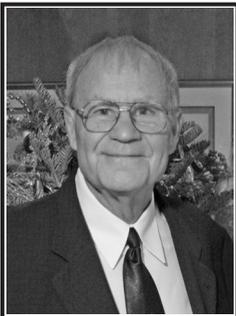
from One in whom there appeared so much of a Divine power and goodness; and, probably, this sermon was the summary, or rehearsal, of what He had preached up and down in the synagogues of Galilee.... Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mr. Henry interestingly also relates in his *Commentary*, so widely read by America’s Founding Fathers, the following insights (paraphrased):

The place was a mountain in Galilee, not one of the holy mountains, as the mountains of Zion, but a common mountain.... [A]s it is the will of God that men should pray and preach every where, anywhere, provided it be decent and convenient. Christ preached this exposition of the law on a mountain, because on a mountain the law was given (Mt. Sinai), and this Sermon on the Mount was also a solemn promulgation of the Christian law.

Contrasting the Old with the New Testaments, when the Law (Ten Commandments) were given (to Moses), the Lord came down upon the mountain; now the Lord Jesus went up the mountainside; then God spoke in thunder and lightning; now, in a still small voice; then the people were ordered to keep their distance; now they are invited to draw near (Jesus, the Christ): a blessed change!

Now read on, and learn what Dr. John Day has to tell us, so brilliantly and gently, and with great understanding and wisdom, about Jesus’ greatest and longest-recorded sermon. Get your highlighter and pour yourself into *TRUTH Standing On Its Head: Insight for an Extraordinary Christian Walk from the Sermon on the Mount!*



“And when the Son of man cometh in His glory and the holy Angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.” (Mt 25:31)

—Gerald Christian Nordskog
Publisher
November, 2009