

We have spent a long time studying the Sermon on the Mount. When we began this study, we saw that Jesus was laying out the picture of the radically different life He was instituting in this world. The things Jesus gives us here are transforming truths that are dramatically different from anything else. The reason that God led us to this long, deep study was not clear at the beginning, but it is clearer now. He knew how America would change in these 15 months, and He wanted us to understand some things because of where He knew we would be and what we would face. I think it is a reminder from God that He has a plan even in these trying times.

The **National Day of Prayer** theme for this year is **Wake up, America**. Isaiah 58:1 is the theme verse. That is an appropriate theme for these days, and it is an appropriate verse for us. Another appropriate verse for these days is 1 Corinthians 14:8.

The soul of America must change before the society in America will change, Proverbs 14:34.

- The hope for America is not found in any plan, process, party or person.
- Only God can rescue our nation.

The people of God must regard Jesus as Lord before the people of America are going to recognize Him as the Savior Who can bring real change in our nation, Psalm 33:12.

- Good people with good hearts doing good works, making good laws, and living good lives will NOT be enough to change the course of our nation, because God is our only chance for the change we need.
- Jesus is the only One Who can change the soul of any man, and only changed souls within our nation can change the soul of our nation.

The people in America must encounter genuine Christianity in the lives of God's people before they can engage in the real change only Christ can bring, 1 Peter 2:8b-12. The Sermon on the Mount is the standard for genuine Christianity, and it is the standard by which we must live if America and the world are to see that Jesus is real and that He is the only real hope for broken lives and a broken nation.

- It is impossible to live the Christ-life Jesus describes apart from salvation through Jesus as Savior.
- It is impossible to live the Christ-life Jesus describes apart from surrender to Jesus as Lord.

The only real way to change our land is to let Jesus radically change our lives!

Is your life a clear trumpet call for the Lord, or is it an unsure sound in these uncertain times?