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THE HONORED INJIL

FIRST BOOK: MATTHEW, CHAPTERS 5-7

THE SERMON OF ISA AL-MASIH ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE

EXCERPT FROM AN IBS TRANSLATION NO LONGER AVAILABLE

HOLY INJIL

ISA AL-MASIH GIVES BLESSINGS

CHAPTER 5

Isa saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them. He said,

³ "Blessed are those who are spiritually needy.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

⁴ Blessed are those who are sad.

They will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are those who are free of pride.

They will be given the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right. They will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are those who show mercy.

They will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are those whose hearts are pure.

They will see Allah.

⁹ Blessed are those who make peace.

They will be called sons of Allah.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

¹¹ Blessed are you when people mock you and hurt you because of me.

You are also blessed when they tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. ¹² Be joyful and glad! Your reward in heaven is great. In the same way, people hurt the prophets who lived long ago.

SALT AND LIGHT

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But suppose that the salt loses its saltiness. How can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything. It will be thrown out. People will walk on it. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things that you do, and they will praise your Father who is in heaven.

AL-MASIH ISA FULFILLS AL-TAURAT

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to destroy what is written in al-Taurat or in the Prophets. I have not come to do that. Instead, I have come to fulfill what is written. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from al-Taurat. Not even the smallest stroke of a pen will disappear from al-Taurat until everything is completed. ¹⁹ Do not break even one of the least important commandments. And do not teach others to break them. If you do, you will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. Instead, practice and teach these commands. Then you will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ This is what I tell you. You must be more godly than the Pharisees and the teachers of Shari`at Musa. If you are not, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Murder

²¹ "You have heard what was said to people who lived long ago. They were told, 'Do not commit murder. Anyone who murders will be judged for it.' ²² But this is what I tell you. Do not be angry with your brother. Anyone who is angry with his brother will be judged. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca!' (an insulting word like empty-headed) must stand trial in the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire in jahannam. ²³ Suppose that you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother has something against you. ²⁴ Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift.

²⁵ Suppose that someone has a claim against you and is taking you to court. Settle the matter quickly. Do it while you are still with him before you reach the court. If you do not, he may hand you over to the judge. The judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I tell you the truth. You will not get out until you have paid the very last little coin!

Adultery

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But this is what I tell you. Do not even look at a woman lustfully. Anyone who does that has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. Your eye is only one part of your body. It is better to lose it than for your whole body to be thrown into jahannam. ³⁰ If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. Your hand is only one part of your

body. It is better to lose it than for your whole body to go to jahannam.

Divorce

³¹ "It has been said, 'Suppose that a man divorces his wife. If he does, he must give her a letter of divorce.'³² But this is what I tell you. Anyone who divorces his wife causes her to commit adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. A man may divorce his wife only if she has not been faithful to him.

Oaths

³³ "Again, you have heard what was said to your people long ago. They were told, 'Do not break the promises that you make to the Lord. Keep the oaths you have made to him.'³⁴ But this is what I tell you. Do not make any promises like that at all. Do not make them in the name of heaven. That is Allah's throne.³⁵ Do not make them in the name of the earth. That is the stool for Allah's feet. Do not make them in the name of al-Quds. That is the city of the Great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath in the name of your head. You cannot make even one hair white or black.³⁷ Just let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes.' Let your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Be Kind to Others

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye must be put out for an eye. A tooth must be knocked out for a tooth.'³⁹ But this is what I tell you. Do not fight against an evil person. Suppose that someone hits you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to him also.⁴⁰ Suppose that someone takes you to court to get your shirt. Let him have your coat

also. ⁴¹ Suppose that someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with him. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you for something, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow something from you.

Love Your Enemies

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.' But this is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be sons of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who do not. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. ⁴⁷ If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people who are ungodly do that. ⁴⁸ So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

CHAPTER 6

Giving to Needy People

" Be careful not to do good works in front of others. Do not do them to 'be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. ² When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown. Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by others. I tell you the truth. They have received their complete reward. ³ When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Then your giving will be done secretly, and your Father will reward you. He sees what you do

secretly.

Prayer

⁵ "When you pray, do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They want to be seen by others. I tell you the truth. They have received their complete reward. ⁶ When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who cannot be seen. He will reward you. Your Father sees what is done secretly. ⁷ When you pray, do not babble repetitiously the way ungodly people do. They think that they will be heard because they use many words. ⁸ Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask Him. ⁹ This is how you should pray:

'Our Father in heaven,
may your name be honored.

¹⁰ May your kingdom come.

May what You want to happen be done
on earth as it is done in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² Forgive us our sins,

just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.

¹³ Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted, and
save us from the evil one.'

¹⁴ "Forgive people when they sin against you. If you do, your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive people

their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Fasting

¹⁶ "When you fast, do not look gloomy like those who only pretend to be holy. They make their faces very sad. They want to show people that they are fasting. I tell you the truth. They have received their complete reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put olive oil on your head. Wash your face. ¹⁸ Then others will not know that you are fasting. Only your Father, who cannot be seen, will know it. He will reward you. Your Father sees what is done secretly.

Store Riches in Heaven

¹⁹ "Do not store riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal. ²⁰ Instead, store riches for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy. There, thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Your heart will be where your riches are. ²² The eye is like a lamp for the body. Suppose that your eyes are good. Then your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But suppose that your eyes are evil. Then your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light inside you is darkness, then it is very dark! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You cannot serve Allah and money at the same time.

Do Not Worry

²⁵ "I tell you, do not worry. Do not worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And do not worry about your body and what you will wear. Is there not more to life than eating? Are there not more important

things for the body than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air. They do not plant or harvest crops. They do not gather crops into storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? ²⁷ Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They do not work or make clothing. ²⁹ But this is what I tell you. Not even Sulaiman in all of his glory was dressed like one of those flowers. ³⁰ If that is how Allah dresses the wild grass, will He not dress you even better? The grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. Your faith is so small! ³¹ So do not worry. Do not say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' ³² People who are ungodly keep trying to get all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them. ³³ Put Allah's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you. ³⁴ So do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

CHAPTER 7

Be Fair When You Judge Others

"Do not judge others. Then you will not be judged. ² You will be judged in the same way that you judge others, and you will be measured in the same way that you measure others. ³ You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend's eye, but you pay no attention to the piece of wood in your own eye. ⁴ How can you say to your friend, 'Let me take the bit of sawdust out of your eye'? How can you say this while there is a piece of wood in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite! First take the piece of wood out

of your own eye. Then you will be able to see clearly to take the bit of sawdust out of your friend's eye. ⁶ Do not give holy things to dogs. Do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they might walk on them. Then they might turn around and tear you to pieces.

Ask, Search, Knock

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ Everyone who asks will receive. He who searches will find. The door will be opened to the one who knocks. ⁹ Suppose that your son asks for bread. Which of you will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or suppose that he asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake? ¹¹ Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him! ¹² In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in al-Taurat and in the Prophets.

The Large and Small Gates

¹³ "Enter Allah's kingdom through the narrow gate. The gate is large and the road is wide that leads to death and jahannam. Many people go that way. ¹⁴ But the gate is small, and the road is narrow that leads to life. Only a few people find it.

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets! They come to you pretending to be sheep, but on the inside they are hungry wolves. ¹⁶ You can know what they really are by what they do. Do people pick grapes from bushes?

Do they pick figs from thorns? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit. But a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down. It is thrown into the fire. ²⁰ You can know each tree by its fruit. ²¹ Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord! Lord!', will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do what my Father in heaven wants will enter. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord! Lord! Did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do many miracles in your name?' ²³ Then I will tell them clearly, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who do evil!'

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ "So then, everyone who hears my words and obeys them is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house, and it falls with a loud crash." ²⁸ 'Isa finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching. ²⁹ He taught like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of Shari`at Musa.