# 30 Sensational Sermon Snapshots Volume 1 Matthew

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All scripture quotations are from: King James Version Holy Bible

Introduction

It is with great pleasure I offer you my newest book, 30 Sensational Sermon Snapshots – Volume 1. I hope that you find these sermons to be very

beneficial to your sermon ministry. The biggest reason for offering these sermon snapshots is to give ministers small seed thoughts that might urge them on to develop these small snapshots into full messages. I pray they accomplish that goal.

I was sitting in my first Homiletics class back in the early 1980's when I heard a professor say something about the origination of a sermon. He said, "Sermons come from here, there, and everywhere." When I first heard his statement I was a bit puzzled and thought to myself, "Sermons have to come from the Bible!" In reality both of us were 100 percent right since sermon thoughts originate from all areas of life, but the basis of a sermon foundation has to be the Bible.

I truly enjoy creating sermons and I love to read messages from others. The writings of others help me to develop many of my sermon snapshots. I will never forget buying my first sermon book by John Phillips. It was wonderful to read his writings and be inspired to create my own sermons. One of my favorite authors is Jerry Vines. I was so excited everytime I had the chance to read his sermon material. In the past thirty-three years I have had the opportunity to read the works of some mighty men of God and I have been inspired by them.

Hopefully these little snapshots I have shared will plant seed thoughts in your mind and heart to prompt you as you prepare to preach God's Word.

From my pen to yours,

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#### "Awesome Ancestors - Matthew 1:1 - 17"

Mat 1:1 KJV - The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

The first 17 verses of chapter one introduces us to the linage of Christ. It weaves its way all the way back to Abraham. The beauty of this is that God lays out his genealogy in all black and white, he cuts no corners, nor does he hide any people.

# 1 - The Notable Greats of his Heritage

He is linked to 17 various generations of people. He is related to Isaac, Jacob, Judas and the other various leaders of God's precious people.

# 2 - The Notorious Gentiles of his Heritage

It's so refreshing to find the names of Rahab the Harlot, the mother of Boaz, and then we read of Ruth the Great Grandmother of King David. In verse 3 he mentions Thamar, she was the incestuous daughter of Judah and a Canaanite, and so we have 3 gentile women in his family tree. Then you read verse 6 and it mentions Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, the one that David murdered.

# 3 - The Needed Glory of his Heritage

The ultimate link that must be made is Jesus can trace his heritage back to King David and Abraham.

God spared no names in presenting and preserving the ancestral tree of his son. We have many great names of mighty men, and then we read of 5 various

women all from different nationalities. I find it refreshing that were all old sinners, needing saved.

# "Angelic Anxieties - Matthew 1: 18 - 25"

Mat 1:20 KJV - But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

This chapter deals with the birth of Jesus from the perspective and perplexity of Joseph. I am not sure we can comprehend the pressure he was facing in not abandoning Mary, and just walking away.

- 1 Joseph and his Anxious Revelation (18)
- 2 Joseph and his Assertive Suggestion (19)
- 3 Joseph and his Angelic Visitation (20-23)
- 4 Joseph and his Attentive Reservation (24-25)

Joseph was very dedicated in serving God and desired to do what was right. He did not want Mary to suffer public shame for being a pregnant unwed mother. He knew this was not his baby and obviously Joseph was hurt and in a bit of dismay as Mary tried to convince him the child inside her womb was the very son of God. One night as he was sleeping Joseph has a vivid dream from the Lord and the angel explains to him the entire events that had taken place with Mary and her pregnancy.

- 1 Time of Dreadful Despair
- 2 Time of Deliberate Discussion
- 3 Time of Detailed Direction

- 4 Time of Daring Duty
- 5 Time of Divine Dramatization

# "Wandering Worshippers - Matthew 2:1 - 12"

Mat 2:2 KJV - Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The Wisemen were watching the heavenly signs and realized that the star of a king had appeared and they were willing to travel hundreds, if not thousands of miles to find him. I find it odd that the only ones to not know the messiah had been born were those living in the Holy City, Jerusalem.

- 1 The Long Journey (1-2)
- 2 The Loathing Jealousy (3)
- 3 The Little Juncture (4-8)
- 4 The Looming Jeopardy (8, 12)
- 5 The Liberating Joy (9-11)

This is an intriguing story of how Wisemen from a far away country came searching for the very Son of God. Herod and his Wisemen were clueless to the signs that the birth of Christ was near or had happened. The world is never ready for Christ.

- 1 The Thrill that was Inspiring "Say his Star"
- 2 The Time that was Involved "Long journey"
- 3 The Terror that was Inflicted "All were troubled"
- 4 The Test that was Injected "Find him, tell me"
- 5 The Treasure that was Included "Gifts"
- 6 The Turn that was Invoked "Different way"

# "Angelic Appearing's - Matthew 2:13-23"

Mat 2:13 KJV - And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt,...

Mat 2:19 KJV - But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Mat 2:20 KJV - Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel:

In this section we find Joseph being visited by an angel on 2 occasions, one telling him to flee and run to Egypt, secondly telling him to flee Egypt and head back to Israel. God's plans can and will change for our lives and we need to be flexible and willing.

- 1 The Desire that was Haunting (13)
- 2 The Departure that was Hastening (14)
- 3 The Dictation that was Heeded (15, 17-18)
- 4 The Deaths that was Horrific (16)
- 5 The Dream that was Honored (19-21)
- 6 The Discovery that was Historical (22-23)

It seems that Joseph is experiencing angels every time he turns a corner. This angel is giving him advice that will help direct his steps from evil and massacre at the hands of Herod and his linage.

1 – Dreams were used to Pronounce Christ's Birth

- 2 Dreams were used to Protect Christ's Life
- 3 Dreams were used to Prevent Christ's Death

# "Pointed Preaching – Matthew 3: 1 – 17"

Mat 3:1 KJV - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, Mat 3:2 KJV - And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

It had been hundreds of years since Israel had heard from one of God's real prophets. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus Christ and it was his job to prepare the way for Jesus to begin his public ministry. It would have been a sight to behold seeing this man come roaring out of the wilderness wearing all of his prophet's attire.

- 1 John and his Manifestation (1)
- 2 John and his Message (2-3)
- 3 John and his Mantle (4)
- 4 John and his Ministry (5-6)
- 5 John and his Methods (7-12)
- 6 John and his Meeting (13)
- 7 John and his Meekness (14-15)
- 8 John and his Marveling (16-17)

John was such an oddity to those that saw his wanderings to and from the wilderness. The multitudes flocked to hear his message.

- 1 Johns Appearance and Dress
- 2 Johns Appetite and Diet
- 3 Johns Appeal and Discourse

# "Triumphant Tempting – Matthew 4: 1 – 11"

Mat 4:1 KJV - Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Mat 4:11 KJV - Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

In this passage we find that Jesus is being attacked by Satan himself and it is an all out assault upon the very core of who Jesus was and who he would be, He was and is the Son of God.

- 1 The Fasting "Ones Denial" (2)
- 2 The Fighting "Ones Desire" (1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9)
- 3 The Foiling "Ones Defeat" (4, 7, 10)
- 4 The Fleeing "Ones Departure (11a)
- 4 The Fulfilling "Ones Delight" (11b)

Jesus faced Satan after he had fasted in the wilderness for 40 days. The Devil sought to attack him at his weakest fleshly moment, but Christ was triumphant over every attack that was hurled his way. I am so thankful we have an advocate that understands how the tempter operates and he teaches us how to be triumphant.

- 1 Temptation is a Sure Fact
- 2 Temptation is a Strong Force
- 3 Temptation is a Subtle Foe

- 1 Christ Defeated Satan with a Strong Will
- 2 Christ Defeated Satan with a Scriptural Word

"Christ was Assaulted by Demons, Aided by Angels"

# "Capernaum's Conqueror - Matthew 4: 12 - 17"

Mat 4:13 KJV - And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

Upon leaving the wilderness Jesus hears that John the Baptist has been imprisoned. So, he now decides its time to leave Nazareth and leap headfirst into his public ministry. Up until this time Christ has only been known among his family and I would think that John the Baptist knew he was the chosen messiah. It was now time to move on and begin the long journey that would take him to Calvary.

- 1 Jesus and his Ministerial Move (12-13)
- 2 Jesus and his Prophetic Platform (14-15)
- 3 Jesus and his Radiant Revelation (16)

# 4 - Jesus and his Mighty Message (17)

It is very interesting to consider all of the various prophecies that Jesus fulfills as he lives his life. The bible is very detailed about how he goes about fulfilling all of the Old Testament prophecies. I read that Jesus fulfilled 351 various prophecies and many of them were fulfilled down to the smallest detail. It is awesome know how accurate the bible is, no details are spared.

Psa 40:7 KJV - Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

Luk 24:44 KJV – And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

#### "Galilee's Giant - Matthew 4: 18 - 25"

Mat 4:18 KJV - And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Jesus is walking by the Sea of Galilee and he will pick 4 of his 12 disciples in a matter of minutes. The first set of brothers that he finds is Peter and Andrew, the men were busy fishing, upon hearing his call they immediately leave their nets and follow him. The next set of brothers is James and John, they are working on their nets, they hear is call and they also leave their nets and follow him.

- 1 Christ and his Followers "The Called" (18-22)
- 2 Christ and his Focus "The Cured" (23-24b)
- 3 Christ and his Fame "The Crowds" (24a-25)

The call of Jesus is a life changing experience. He wanted to teach these men to catch souls rather than fish. The calling of Jesus is much more important, catching fish is temporary but when one catches a person and wins a soul, that's eternal.

# 1 – Soul Winning is Wise

Pro 11:30 KJV - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

# 2 – Soul Winning is Warranted

Mar 16:15 KJV - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

# "Beautiful Blessings – Matthew 5: 1 – 12"

Mat 5:1 KJV - And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

Mat 5:2 KJV - And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

In these 12 verses Jesus discusses the attitude that his followers should strive to attain. If we can learn to incorporate these traits in our everyday lifestyle we would be so much more like Christ. I would portray these verses as victory verses.

- 1 The Poor in Spirit Beautiful Beggars "Pleasing Poverty" (3)
- 2 The Mourners Wonderful Weepers "Soothing Sensitivity" (4)
- 3 The Meek Mindful Ministers "Honoring Humility" (5)
- 4 The Hungry and Thirsty Successful Seekers "Satisfying Sincerity" (6)
- **5 The Merciful Helpful Healers** "Moving Mercy" (7)
- **6 The Pure in Heart Lawful Lovers** "Persevering Purity" (8)

# 7 - The Peacemakers - Peaceful Promoters "Undaunting Unity" (9)

# 8 – The Persecuted – Thoughtful Takers

"Everlasting Eternity" (10-12)

# "Salty Saints - Matthew 5: 13"

Mat 5:13 KJV - Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Jesus now likens his followers to salt; he literally calls them salty saints. In the bible we find numerous references to salt:

- 1 Binding of covenants (Leviticus 2: 13)
- 2 Healing and cleansing of water (II Kings 2: 21-22)
- 3 Enhancing taste of food (Job 6: 6)
- 4 Bathing for newborn babies (Ezekiel 16: 4)
- 5 Killing of Lots wife (Genesis 19: 26)
- 6 Pledging of covenants (Num. 18: 19, II Ch. 13: 5)

"This custom of pledging friendship or confirming a compact by eating food containing salt is still retained among Arabic-speaking people. The Arabic word for "salt" and for a "compact" or "treaty" is the same. Doughty in his travels in Arabia appealed more than once to the superstitious belief of the Arabs in the "salt covenant," to save his life. Once an Arab has received in his tent even his worst enemy and has eaten salt (food) with him, he is bound to protect his guest as long as he remains."

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

# 1 - Salt Insures us to be Pure

- 2 Salt Inspires us to be Peaceful
- 3 Salt Implores us to be Palatable (To the lost)
- 4 Salt Invites us to be Penetrating (In this world)

# "Christian Candles - Matthew 5: 14 - 16"

Mat 5:14 KJV - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Jesus is now likening his followers to light; he had just compared them to salt. It is very enlightening to see how Jesus uses extremes to teach biblical truths. Salt and light are both useful and needful, but both are quiet opposite in nature. As Christians we are to be like salt and delay decay in this evil and decaying world, but as light we are to defuse darkness. Salt seems to be so minute but oh the awesome power that it has when put in use. Light is so massive and marvelous and it travels at a speed of 186,281 miles per second.

- 1 Salt alter from with in Light alters from without
- 2 Salt is not so obvious Light is very obvious
- 3 Salt retards Light reveals
- 4 Salt relates to our character light our conduct
- 5 Salt reveals what we are light what we do
- 1 Light Reveals the Godlessness of this World
- 2 Light Reveals the Goodness of our Works
- 3 Light Reveals the Greatness of his Word

"Once there was a little boy that was taken by his mother to see a famous cathedral. On the windows

were the pictures of various Christians. As he was watching the sunbeams shining through the stained-glass windows, he asked his mother, "Who are those people on the windows?" She said, "They're saints." The little boy looked at the windows and said, "Well, now I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through."

# "Real Righteousness - Matthew 5: 17 - 20"

Mat 5:20 KJV - For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

In this passage Jesus is going to magnify the importance of the law. The truth of this passage is that Christ is the real deal; he did not come to minimize the law but to magnify its legitimacy. The religious rulers were hypocrites and false, they had diluted the law to manmade rules and regulations. The rulers never let the law get past their heads, it never permeated their hearts.

- 1 The Contradiction "It's not a bout Doing"
- 2 The Transformation "It's about Becoming"
- 3 The Observation "It's not about Catching"
- 4 The Confirmation "It's about Changing"
- 1 Jesus Rectified the Position of the Law
- 2 Jesus Represented the Culmination of the Law
- 3 Jesus Reassured the Appreciation of the Law

- 4 Jesus Recognized the Intention of the Law
- 5 Jesus Revealed the Interpretation of the Law
- 6 Jesus Rebuked the Dilution of the Law

# "Murder Magnified - Matthew 5: 20 - 26"

Mat 5:21 KJV - Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

It is a bit thought provoking that Jesus begins his new way of living by bringing up murder. This takes our minds all the way back to the very first crime that was committed against mankind, the murder of Abel. Jesus is going to change the way we think about honoring God. The law taught that murder was done with ones hands, but this new way of living teaches us that murder can be just as bad if perceived in ones heart.

- 1 The Act of Murder is Undesired
- 2 The Attitude of Murder is Uncovered
- 3 The Analogy of Murder is Unheralded
- 1 The Consideration of Anger (22)
- 2 The Admission of Anger (23)
- 3 The Rectification of Anger (24)
- 4 The Retribution of Anger (25 26)

Humor: "A Kentucky mountaineer fighting overseas in WW1 kept getting nagging letters from his wife

back home. He was too busy fighting to write letters, even to his wife. At last, angered by his wife's scolding letters, he sat down and wrote her: "Dear Nancy: I been a-gittin yore naggin letters all along. Now I want to tell ye, I'm tired of them. For the first time in my life I'm a-fightin in a big war, and I want to enjoy it in peace as long as it lasts."

# "Impurity Implications - Matthew 5: 27 - 30"

Mat 5:28 KJV - But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

In this passage Jesus is going to discuss the purity of marriage and the proper path we are to take in prompting purity. A lot of people think that the only word God says is no, but that is not true at all. The only time God places a no in our life it is for our own wellbeing and usually for protection. It didn't take Jesus long to deal with sexual tendencies and the implications of his new teachings. The law specified adultery as an actual act, but this new teaching defined adultery as an attitude. The look of lust was just as demeaning and dangerous as someone that is caught in the act of adultery. We find that Jesus gives us specific details on looking and lusting, and then he tells us how to limit the damage.

# 1 – The Law that is Alarming (27) "The Scriptural Specifics of Sin"

- 1 The Look that is Alluring (28a) "The Sneaky Subtleness of Sin"
- 2 The Lust that is Adulterating (28b) "The Somber Similarities of Sin"

# 3 – The Loss that is Affirming (29 – 30) "The Shocking Seriousness of Sin"

- 1 Looking is Enticement of Sin
- 2 Lusting is the Entitlement of Sin
- 3 Plucking is the Escapement of Sin

### "Divorce Documents - Matthew 5: 31 - 32"

Mat 5:32 KJV - But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

In the Old Testament times people could literally get a divorce for literally any reason. If you read all of the scriptures about divorce it wasn't conceived by God, it was needful due to the sinfulness of man's hearts. In reality divorce is not something God smiles upon. In reading all of the scriptures on divorce we do find that God gives a few clear outlets, if they are violated then the marriage can be dissolved through a written divorce document. The subject of divorce is one of much debate, despair, and dissension. The thing I like is how Jesus steps right into the middle of the debate and gives clarity to his new expectations for his followers.

- 1 The Broad Boundaries of Divorce (31)
- 2 The Clear Confinements of Divorce (32)
- 3 The Fictitious Facts of Divorce

In reading the bible I can only find two justifiable reasons for people to get a divorce. I struggle with a third reason that I wish God had given more insight.

- 1 Divorce and Adultery (Matt. 19: 1 12)
- 2 Divorce and Abandonment (I Cor. 7: 10 16)
- 3 Divorce and Abuse (This is a tough one)

# "Sound Speech - Matthew 5: 33 - 37"

Mat 5:37 KJV - But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

In these verses Jesus gives us a stern warning on our speech and our trustworthiness. If we tell someone something we should not have to back up our words with oaths. It is like making a statement to someone, then having to say things like "I swear" or "I promise it's true". In the eyes of God this is neither acceptable nor needful. He is stern in making sure we aren't qualified to swear by heaven or by using God. It is needful that we live a life that others will know that when we say something then our words will stand as truth.

Psa 58:3 KJV - The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

- 1 Lying the Natural Bent in Humans
- 2 Lying the Notable Blemish in Humans
- 3 Lying the Negative Barrier in Humans

- 1 Our words should be Truthful
- 2 Our words should be Thoughtful
- 3 Our words should be Timeful
- 4 Our words should be Trustful
- 5 Our words should be Tactful

#### "Retaliation Resistant - Matthew 5: 38 - 42"

Mat 5:39 KJV - But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

It seems as if Jesus is moving into the area of our lives that makes all of us very uncomfortable. He has dealt with our new lifestyle and a new concept of living for his followers. Then he verifies his fulfillment of the law, prods us to consider new standards for adultery and divorce. He challenges us to be honest in our speech but now he delves into retaliation and vengeance. The new standard that Christ sets for us minimizes retaliation and magnifies resistance and compassion. This is not a normal manner for human beings; it is engrained in us to retaliate and to stand up to our avengers. This teaching goes against the grain for those that like to be vindictive. Jesus is intertwining this new lifestyle right into the very fiber of our traditional mindset. It is challenging yet very liberating! The moment we grasp this concept our lives will be free.

# 1 – The Normal Reaction "Limited Control" (38)

2 – The Needful Resistance "Left Cheek" (39)

3 – The Noted Recourse "Last Cloak" (40)

4 – The New Rule "Longer Course" (41)

5 – The Necessary Regards "Liberating Concepts" (42)

"Reversed Rewards - Matthew 5: 43 - 48"

Mat 5:44 KJV - But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

In all reality the Pharisees had diluted the scriptures by adding four little words, "and hate your enemy". The bible did not say that in the Old Testament, it did say to love our neighbor as ourself, but not to hate our enemy. This statement was very startling and shocking to those that heard it for the first time. I think this may have been the driest pill for the crowd to swallow, that of loving your enemies and treating them with kindness. The crowd would be very anxious and argumentative at this point.

- 1 The Fallacy of Loving Friends (43) "The Past Standard"
- 2 The Freedom of Loving Foes (44 45) "The Phenomenal Strategy"
- 3 The Focus of Loving Freely (46 48) "The Perfecting Stipulation"

- 1 Loving our Enemies is Perplexing (To us)
- 2 Loving our Enemies is Preferred (To God)
- 3 Loving our Enemies is Pleasing (To Jesus)
- 4 Loving our Enemies is Perfecting (To our Spirit)
- 5 Loving our Enemies is Perturbing (To them)
- 6 Loving our Enemies is Puzzling (To others)

# "Godly Giving - Matthew 6: 1 - 4"

Mat 6:4 KJV - That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

The crowd that sat before Jesus knew very well what point he was trying to make about the giving of alms. In those days people would stop and exchange their money for lots of small change, so that when they gave everyone could hear their money clanging loudly. In the temple there were 13 receptacles placed throughout so that people could give their alms. The 13 receptacles had trumpet shaped openings that were made of brass, so when the Pharisees hurled their money inside, lots of noise would be made and everyone could hear. This is what Jesus is aiming his scope at, those that were haughty, arrogant, and insincere givers. Jesus called these people hypocrites; this became one of his favorite words to identify the Pharisees. The subject of this set of scriptures is giving that is sincere and capable of being blessed by God. If your giving is not sincere, don't expect God to bless you.

The Lord is well capable of recognizing our gifts and in turn he can reward us in due time.

- 1 Ruined Rewards are Plausible (1) "Sincerity is Required"
- 2 Glorious Giving is Detestable (2) "Publicity is Rebuked"
- 3 Secretive Sharing is Admirable (3 4a) "Confidentiality is Reiterated"
- 4 Public Profiting is Tangible (4b) "Perceptibility is Rewarded"

"Heavens Hotline - Matthew 6: 5 - 15"

Mat 6:8 KJV - Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

- 1 The Pitfalls of Prayer (5)
- 2 The Privacy of Prayer (6)
- 3 The

#### Conclusion

I hope these sermons have been helpful and useful to you in your ministry. I also want to invite you to check out my other sermon material. I have numerous sermon materials which might be useful to you in your ministry.

Please feel free to contact me for more information about my material.

Thank you,

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