



Sermon Discussion Guide

August 16, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 5:1-2 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing people like the poor in spirit, mourners, and the meek as “blessed.” Why do these qualities seem so contrary to the world’s definition of happiness? What does that tell us about the values of Christ’s kingdom?

The sermon emphasizes the parallels between Moses and Jesus. What is Matthew communicating about Jesus through these parallels? How should seeing Jesus as the greater Moses affect the way we listen to His teaching?

The Sermon on the Mount describes what citizens of Christ’s kingdom are supposed to look like. If salvation is by grace rather than works, what role should obedience to Jesus’ commands play in the Christian life?

Jesus’ standards eventually expose the fact that none of us possesses the righteousness necessary to enter His kingdom on our own. How does the Sermon on the Mount both confront us with our sin and point us toward Christ?

Throughout the sermon, Jesus speaks with remarkable authority by saying, “But I say to you.” Ultimately, He presents Himself as the One who determines who enters the kingdom. Why are Christians sometimes tempted to treat Jesus’ words as suggestions rather than commands? How can we grow in fighting this temptation?

Pastor Mark mentioned that “true happiness can only be found in the kingdom of heaven . . . and the key to the kingdom is the King.” What are some places people, including Christians, look for happiness apart from Christ? What would it practically look like for you to seek Christ and His kingdom above all this week?