

The Sermon on the Mount
Class Notes
Session 1

Introduction: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is found in Matthew Chapters 5 through 7

Matthew 5.1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Sermon on the Mount is a description of life lived within the *Kingdom of God* (Heaven).

The "Sermon" involves 3 types of material:

- Beatitudes (Declarations of blessings)
- Ethical teachings.
- Contrasts between Jesus' Law/ethic and Jewish legalistic tradition.

The Context of the Sermon and the Gospel of Matthew.

The Sermon is a call for Israel to repent and turn to Jesus.

Matthew 4.17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

To know the Sermon is to know Jesus the "Preacher." Jesus...Who is...:

The Eschatological Prophet.

Isaiah 61.1-2

The "New" Moses.

Exodus 19.3

Deuteronomy 18:15

The Moral Exemplar.

Matthew 5.38-42

The Sermon is a summary of Jesus' deeds. Implicit in the Sermon is the imitation of Christ.

The Sermon seeks to instill a vision of the "Kingdom lifestyle."

The Sermon addresses ordinary circumstances and sees it through the eyes of eternity—looking *backward* (prolepsis) from consummation to the present time.

Jesus is not just a moral teacher He is also a Gracious Presence.

The "Beatitudes"

Matthew 5.2-12 "Blessed..." The word "Beatitude" comes from Latin "*beatitudo*" which translates the Greek μακάριος (*makarios*): (To be) "Happy" "Fortunate" (Blessed)

Beatitudes are a Literary type, explaining the opposite of “woe.” 2 types of blessings...:

- Those that bless Circumstances.
- Those that bless Relationships.

Likewise...Human blessing falls into two categories:

- Blessings because of Present circumstance.
- Blessings because of what lies in store— Future blessings.

The Beatitudes are intended to startle—to have things backwards. To take the beatitudes seriously calls into question our ordinary values.

(v.3): “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...”

“Poor in Spirit.” πτωχός (*ptōchos*)... “Of little value”

Those who acknowledge their spiritual Emptiness (Poverty)

Very close to humility. Our helplessness...our spiritual and physical needs...drives us to a dependent relationship with God.

The Kingdom of Heaven—God’s will, rule. In Matthew, the Kingdom of Heaven is both *here* and *gradually arriving*....

- In Jesus’ ministry.
- Through Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- Remaining to be fulfilled in the future.

God’s sovereign rule is invading history through the person and work of Jesus.

(v.4): “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” ... πενθεῶ (*pentheō*)... “To grieve”

Mourning... Acknowledging loss and lack.

This is the eschatological courage of *Revelation 21.4*

Isaiah 61.2-3

God’s Kingdom not yet fulfilled...Yet will be!

Going Forward:

- How do these promised blessings compare with what most people in the world prize?
- Where do you need to grow in your relationship with Jesus?