



Sermon on the Mount

Sermon 1

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Study Guide

January 12, 2020

Opening:

The Gospel of Matthew was written by Matthew, also known as Levi, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. Matthew was a Jew and when he met Jesus, he was working for the Roman government as a tax collector. The Jews considered a Jewish tax collector to be someone who was betraying his people for personal gain, since tax collectors made quite a living, mostly at the expense of the Jewish people. After being called by Jesus to follow him, Matthew had a big party for Jesus in his home, and then apparently, left it all behind to follow Jesus.

Matthew writes his Gospel as a Jew to the Jewish people. He began with the genealogy of Jesus that showed Jesus' lineage from the Jewish perspective. Then Matthew detailed Jesus' birth, His baptism, His time of testing in the wilderness, and His calling of the twelve disciples.

Then Matthew gives us a glimpse into Jesus early days of ministry. At this time in His earthly ministry, in the presence of His disciples, Jesus delivered His famous "Sermon on the Mount."

At the beginning, it seemed that Jesus wanted His disciples and followers to know what following Him was going to look like. Jesus starts his teaching by demonstrating how high he sets the bar for His followers.

Read Matthew 4:23 – 5:12

- What is the connection between Matthew 4:23-25 and 5:1-2?
- What are the eight qualities that describe kingdom people and how do they relate to the promises that follow them?

1. Blessed are ...

2. Blessed are ...

3. Blessed are ...

4. Blessed are ...

5. Blessed are ...

6. Blessed are ...

7. Blessed are ...

8. Blessed are...

- How do the eight relate to each other?
- How does Romans 12:18 reinforces Matthew 5:9?
- How do these promised blessings compare with what most people are chasing in the world?
- Jesus began his sermon with words that seem to contradict each other. What was Jesus teaching that contradicts the world's perspectives?

If you want to live for God, you must be ready to say and do what seems strange to the world. You must be willing to give when others take, to love when others hate, to help when others abuse.

By giving up your own rights in order to serve others, you will one day receive everything God has in store for you.

- If Jesus calls you to give up everything and follow Him, what would you do?

Read Matthew 19: 16-30

- What was the rich man's question and how did he respond to Jesus' answer?

- Why were the disciples confused and how did Jesus help them understand what He was teaching?

- In which of the blessings that Jesus calls us to are you strong? How can you praise and thank Him for them?

- In which of the blessings do you find you are weak? Why?

Observations:

1. The path to experiencing blessedness/happiness does not seem to be a path that is followed naturally.
2. Blessedness/Happiness does not seem to be affected by the absence or presence of suffering.
3. Jesus most certainly perfectly reflected each of these attitudes.
4. For the follower of Jesus, the best is yet to come.

Notes:

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The Year of the Bible

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