

SOTM - The Posture of the Kingdom (Mt 5:1-6)

The Joy Of the Lord Is Your Strength!

Hardly anything beats a "radiant face"

INTRO:

1. Good morning friends and HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!
2. Just FYI - we hold mothers in very high esteem here!!
3. So - let me just say a few things to the wonderful mothers of The Bridge...
4. If you're a mother of 1, mother of 20
5. If you're an expectant mom or hope to one day be a mom
6. If you're a working mom or stay at home mom
7. If you're a single mom
8. If you're a step mom
9. If you're a foster mom
10. If you're an adoptive mom
11. If you're a Spiritual mom
12. If you're a mom of a mom, or a mom of a mom of a mom
13. THANK YOU
14. You are seen, not just on one day, but every day - all day long.
15. *Now, I also know that today can be a hard day.*
16. *Maybe this day tugs at you. Perhaps regret, perhaps heartache from a lost child, perhaps mom isn't here this year.*
17. Romans 15:13
18. **13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
19. We honor you and love you - wherever you find yourself this morning.
 1. 6 years ago, I rode a roller coaster with Caiden for the first time.
 2. And I forgot something about roller coasters: once that bar locks in... you're committed.
 - a. There's no easing into it.
 - b. No gentle introduction.
 - c. No "let's take this slow."
 3. One moment you're climbing... and the next moment everything turns upside down.
 4. Your stomach drops.
 5. Your perspective changes.
 6. And for the next few minutes, all you can do is hold on.
 7. Honestly? That's the best way I know to describe what's about to happen over the next two and a half months.

8. Today, we begin studying the most famous sermon ever preached by the most famous preacher who ever lived.
9. Jesus.
10. It's referred to as: **The Sermon on the Mount.**
11. And Bridge Family — this sermon will flip your world upside down.
 - a. It's deep.
 - b. It's beautiful.
 - c. It's confronting.
 - d. At times, it's going to flip you upside down..
12. The reason is: Jesus isn't afraid to talk about anything...
13. IN FACT - over the next 2.5 months we will talk about:
14. *Anger. Lust. Marriage. Money. Anxiety. Prayer. Enemies. Forgiveness. Hypocrisy. Judgment. Loyalty. Materialism. Mercy. True obedience. True righteousness. The inner life. The Kingdom of God.*
15. This sermon presses on every corner of the human heart.
16. As Sinclair Ferguson said: *"The sermon is a description of the lifestyle of those who belong to the Kingdom."*
17. And I really believe the next 2.5 months could change everything for some of us.
18. Not because there's anything magical about a sermon series.
19. But because the words of Jesus have a way of rebuilding people from the inside out.
 - a. He could restore a marriage.
 - b. Heal what's broken.
 - c. Give courage where there's fear.
 - d. Bring clarity where there's confusion.
 - e. Wake some of us up spiritually for the first time in years.
20. So today, we begin.
21. **Today's Big Idea:** *The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who have stopped pretending they deserve it.*
22. *You ready? Let's go!*

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

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

1. A bit of context before we jump in.
2. Matthew tells us that when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountain, sat down, and His disciples gathered around Him.
3. *That detail matters.*
4. Because in that day, a rabbi sat down when he was about to teach with authority.
5. And Matthew keeps drawing our attention to the mountain because he wants us to see something important:
 - a. A greater Moses has stepped onto a greater Sinai.
6. However unlike Moses, Jesus isn't just delivering laws written on stone.
7. *He's announcing what life in the Kingdom of God actually looks like.*
8. And from the very first sentence, Jesus turns the world upside down.
9. He begins with what we call the Beatitudes:

10. "Blessed are..."
11. Now when we hear the word "blessed," we usually think of a feeling.
 - a. Happy. Comfortable. Successful.
- 12. But Jesus is talking about something much deeper than emotion.**
13. This word carries the idea of deep flourishing — not merely a happy feeling, *but a settled position before God.*
14. *Jesus is describing the kind of person who belongs to His Kingdom.*
15. And that's important because the Beatitudes are not an entrance exam into Christianity.
16. Jesus is not saying, "Do these things so God will accept you."
17. No - They are a portrait of a person whose life has been overtaken by God.
18. And the first four Beatitudes especially are meant to build on one another.
19. They describe the same person from four different angles.
20. *This is what happens when grace begins to do real work in someones life.*
 - a. When a person stops performing.
 - b. Stops pretending.
 - c. Stops trying to convince themselves and everyone else that they're enough.
21. And finally comes to the end of themselves... only to discover that Jesus meets people there.
22. So, here's what Jesus says...

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

1. The word Jesus uses for "poor" is not middle-class,
 - a. not struggling a little,
 - b. but the language of a beggar.
2. Someone with empty hands.
3. Here's what this is: someone who knows they have nothing to offer God except their need.
4. Think about the tax collector in Luke 18: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."
5. **What do we bin**
6. This is not low self-esteem.
7. This is theological honesty.
8. To be poor in spirit means you finally stop trying to impress God with your résumé.
9. You stop bargaining.
10. You stop trying to clean yourself up enough to deserve grace.
11. And notice the promise: *"theirs IS the kingdom."*
12. Present tense.
 - a. Not someday.
 - b. Not eventually.
 - c. **Right now.**
- 13. The Kingdom starts where self-sufficiency ends.**
14. BUT - *Everything in us resists this.*
15. We want to contribute something.
16. Our pride always wants to look at how we DIDN'T say OUTLOUD that thing we were thinking and say, "Surely this counts for something."

17. That's why moralism, self-help spirituality, and the prosperity gospel are all so attractive — they keep convincing the beggar he can save himself if he just works a little harder.
18. But Jesus says the Kingdom starts where self-sufficiency ends.
19. So where are you still trying to earn standing with God?
 - a. Your church attendance?
 - b. Your knowledge?
 - c. Your discipline?
 - d. Your reputation?
20. None of those things are bad — unless you are using them as currency instead of response.
21. The door into the Kingdom is low.
22. You have to bow to walk through it.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (v.4)

1. This Beatitude is probably the most misunderstood.
2. Does God comfort us in ordinary grief and suffering? Absolutely.
3. He is near to the brokenhearted.
4. But Jesus is talking about something even deeper here.
5. This is the grief that comes when a person finally sees themselves clearly before God.
6. This is what happens after poverty of spirit.
7. Once you realize your spiritual bankruptcy, *you begin to mourn the reality of your sin.*
8. That's why these Beatitudes flow together.
9. Isaiah experienced this in Isaiah 6: "Woe is me, for I am ruined."
10. This is not shame that pushes us from God.
11. It is sorrow that drives us toward Him.
12. And it's not only mourning over personal sin.
13. It is also the grief of someone whose heart has awakened to the brokenness of the world.
14. You begin to notice what sin has done — to your family, your city, your relationships, your own soul — and you refuse to become numb to it.
15. And Jesus says, *"they shall be comforted."*
16. The comfort comes from God Himself.
 - a. Not denial.
 - b. Not pretending everything is fine.
17. The Comforter is a Person.
18. But our culture trains us to avoid mourning at all costs.
19. *We distract ourselves, medicate ourselves, entertain ourselves, scroll ourselves numb.*
20. And sometimes the church does the same thing - rushing to resurrection language while refusing to sit honestly in the grief of the tomb.
- 21. But - Grief is not the opposite of joy - it's often them path to it.**
22. In the Kingdom of God, grief becomes the pathway to real joy because it leads us to the heart of Christ.
23. So let me ask you:

- a. When was the last time you truly grieved your sin — not just the consequences of it, but the reality of it?
 - b. And have you allowed yourself to feel the weight of what is broken around you?
 - c. Or have you gone emotionally numb?
24. Bridge Family - numbness is not peace.
25. It is avoidance.
26. Jesus says the mourner is blessed because mourners are the ones who run TO God for comfort instead of running FROM Him.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (v.5)

- 1. Meekness is not weakness.
- 2. The word was often used for a powerful horse that had been trained and brought under control.
- 3. I think about those massive horses out at Bridge Property...
- 4. All that strength, all that force — and do you know how you move a powerful horse around?
- 5. A small bit in the mouth can guide the entire animal.
- 6. That's meekness.
- 7. **8. Power under control.**
- 9. Strength surrendered to a greater authority.
- 10. Moses was called the meekest man on earth, and Moses was anything but passive.
- 11. Jesus called Himself "meek and lowly in heart," and He also flipped tables in the temple.
- 12. *Meekness is not being fragile.*
- 13. It is being secure enough in God that you no longer have to dominate people to prove yourself.
- 14. And notice how naturally this Beatitude flows from the first two.
 - a. When you know you are spiritually bankrupt...
 - b. When you have mourned your sin...
 - c. You stop fighting to protect your ego all the time.
- 15. You stop grasping for control.
- 16. You stop needing to win every argument.
- 17. You stop treating people like threats to your identity.
- 18. *Because meekness grows in people who are secure in God alone.*
- 19. That's why meekness is so countercultural.
 - a. Corporate culture rewards self-promotion.
 - b. Social media rewards outrage.
 - c. Politics rewards aggression.
 - d. Even church culture can quietly reward whoever is loudest in the room.
- 20. *But the Kingdom rewards something different.*
- 21. Meekness shows up in ordinary moments:
 - a. How you respond when someone misunderstands you.
 - b. How you talk about people who hurt you.
 - c. Whether you have to get the last word.
 - d. Whether you trust God enough to let Him defend you.
- 22. **Bridge: You don't have to defend what God has already secured.**

23. And Jesus says the meek — not the manipulators, not the power-hungry, not the self-exalting — will inherit the earth.
24. Now, when we're meek - we're no longer full of ourselves - which is why the next beatitude makes perfect sense...

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." (v.6)

1. Now Jesus pushes even deeper.
2. This is not "I'm kinda interested" in righteousness.
 - a. This is desperation. Starvation. Thirst in the desert kind of stuff.
3. And the promise is massive.
4. The word "filled" means to be completely satisfied — like someone who has finally eaten until they can eat no more.
5. GOLDEN CORRAL (If you love your momma)
- 6.
7. *The tragedy is that most of us settle for smaller appetites.*
8. We want enough of God to feel respectable, but not enough to become desperate for Him.
9. **So Jesus asks us to examine our hunger.**
 - a. What do you crave when nobody is watching?
 - b. What do you run to when your soul feels empty?
 - c. What are you feeding your heart with?
10. Because whatever you consistently feast on is shaping your life.
11. But here is the good news: *even the hunger itself is grace.*
12. Spiritual hunger is evidence that the Spirit of God is already at work in you.
13. So don't keep feeding your soul substitutes that can never satisfy.
 - a. Success will not satisfy you.
 - b. Achievement will not satisfy you.
 - c. Pleasure will not satisfy you.
 - d. Approval will not satisfy you.
14. Eventually every lesser thing leaves you hungry again.
15. **Your deepest hunger was never meant for this world — it was meant for Jesus.**
16. He doesn't just give bread.
17. He *is* the Bread of Life.

1. Ok, as we begin this series we have to see this:
2. These are not four different kinds of people.
3. They are one person seen from four different angles —
4. *the person whose life is being transformed by grace.*
5. This is the progression of the gospel taking root in a human heart:
 - a. I am spiritually bankrupt.
 - b. So I grieve my sin.
 - c. And that produces humility instead of self-protection.

- d. Which awakens a deeper hunger for God Himself.
6. Or to say it simply:
7. I am bankrupt →
8. I grieve it →
9. I stop grasping →
10. I start hungering for something better.
11. You cannot manufacture this.
12. You cannot force yourself into spiritual transformation through effort alone.
13. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in surrendered people.
14. So the question is not, "How do I perform this well enough?"
15. The question is: Will you stop resisting what God is trying to awaken in you?
16. Because this is the upside-down, beautiful reality of the Kingdom of God:
17. **Remember: The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who have stopped pretending they deserve it.**
18. And that kind of grace changes everything.
19. I'm praying that over the next 2 and a half months - your world will open up to the beauty of God's Grace and the gravity to what He's called us into!
20. And, Jesus is always worth it - why!?

THE GOSPEL: Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope for every person. Though we are all sinful and our sin separates us from God, God made a way for us to be in right relationship with him again. That way is Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God promises that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved. This is the good news of the Bible.

COMMUNION: 1 Corinthians 11

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, ^[b] "This is my body, which is ^[c] for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you;
 may the Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you;
 may the Lord look with favor on you ^[b]
 and give you peace."