



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 1: MATTHEW 5:1-12

Community Group Study Guide - Week of January 24, 2021

A phrase that has plagued the American church in recent decades is the command to parishioners, "Let Jesus into your heart." This phrase has misled many in the American church because, in scripture, Jesus never actually asks anybody to let Him into their heart or begs them to let Him be their personal savior.

How did Jesus call people to salvation in the Bible? Our text from last week, Matthew 4:12-25, shows us that He did so by proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He doesn't ask people if they can let Him into their hearts, He tells them that His kingdom is established and tells them how to enter it.

How do we enter into Christ's kingdom? Jesus tells us to repent. He teaches that a truly regenerated heart will always lead to a changed life. Put more thoroughly, He teaches that when one is born again by the Spirit of God, he is so fueled by gratitude that the holy and sovereign king of creation died on the cross for his sin, providing a means for peace with God, that he cannot refrain from joyfully submitting every aspect of his life to Jesus' reign.

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5:1-12, like an American president passing his first executive orders, Jesus, early on in His earthly ministry, lays out His executive orders for citizens under His new reign. He tells those who receive Him as their Lord and Savior by faith what their lives under His rule should look like. These first teachings are called beatitudes, or blessings, because it is in joyfully submitting our lives to these teachings that we experience true blessedness in this life and prepare ourselves for the blessed life that is to come.

Christians do not seek to live up to the standards laid out by the beatitudes in order to earn their salvation or to keep it, rather they view them as the benchmarks by which they evaluate their level of faithfulness in service as ambassadors of their king. The impossibility of meeting these marks perfectly in the flesh shall inspire even more sincere worship of Christ Himself, who was able to meet them perfectly in His life and death, and incline believers to more desperately rely on His power while trying to meet the standards of citizenship set by Him.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the blessings of being a citizen of Christ's kingdom.

Heart

To show faith in our king by keeping with repentance throughout our Christian walk.

Hands

To seek growth in the faith by evaluating our conduct and thoughts against the standards set for citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven in the beatitudes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship Services

THIS Sunday, January 31 at 9:30AM and 11:30AM.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to sign up to serve on the Mini Mo or Usher Team.

We will hold a **baptism this Sunday**, January 31, after the 11:30AM service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. What are unbiblical ways that people are called to faith in churches in our country? How does Jesus call people to faith? Why is it important to refer to Jesus as a king? How has viewing Jesus as a king impacted your desire for faithfulness in the Christian life?
2. What event in redemptive history does Jesus' delivery of the Sermon on the Mount call to mind? How would you describe the Sermon on the Mount and its significance in the timeline of Christ's ministry on earth to a non-believer or young Christian?
3. Why is this section of scripture called, "The Beatitudes"? How is being "blessed" different than being happy? Do you struggle to live up to one of the character traits (1st part of each beatitude) listed in the beatitudes more than others?
4. What beatitude stands out the most to you? Why? Do you derive any encouragement or instruction from relationship between the condition (1st part of each beatitude) and result (second of each beatitude) of any of the beatitudes?
5. How does meditating on the beatitudes reveal one's need for a Savior?
6. **Read Matthew 5:3.** What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? What challenges and benefits are there for living a life as one who is poor in spirit in (1) your personal relationship with Christ, (2) your family (3) your local body of Christ, and/or (4) your workplace?
7. **Read Matthew 5:7.** What is mercy? What is the difference between grace and mercy? What are some costs that we might take on while living and serving the Lord closely with other members of the church? How do we derive power to continually be merciful?
8. **Read Matthew 5:5.** What is the definition between weakness and meekness?
9. **Read Matthew 5:10-11.** What is the connection between peace-making and persecution? Why does righteousness arouse displeasure in the non-believing world around us? How do these verses encourage you to continue to march forward for righteousness' sake despite the guarantee that you will be persecuted for doing so?