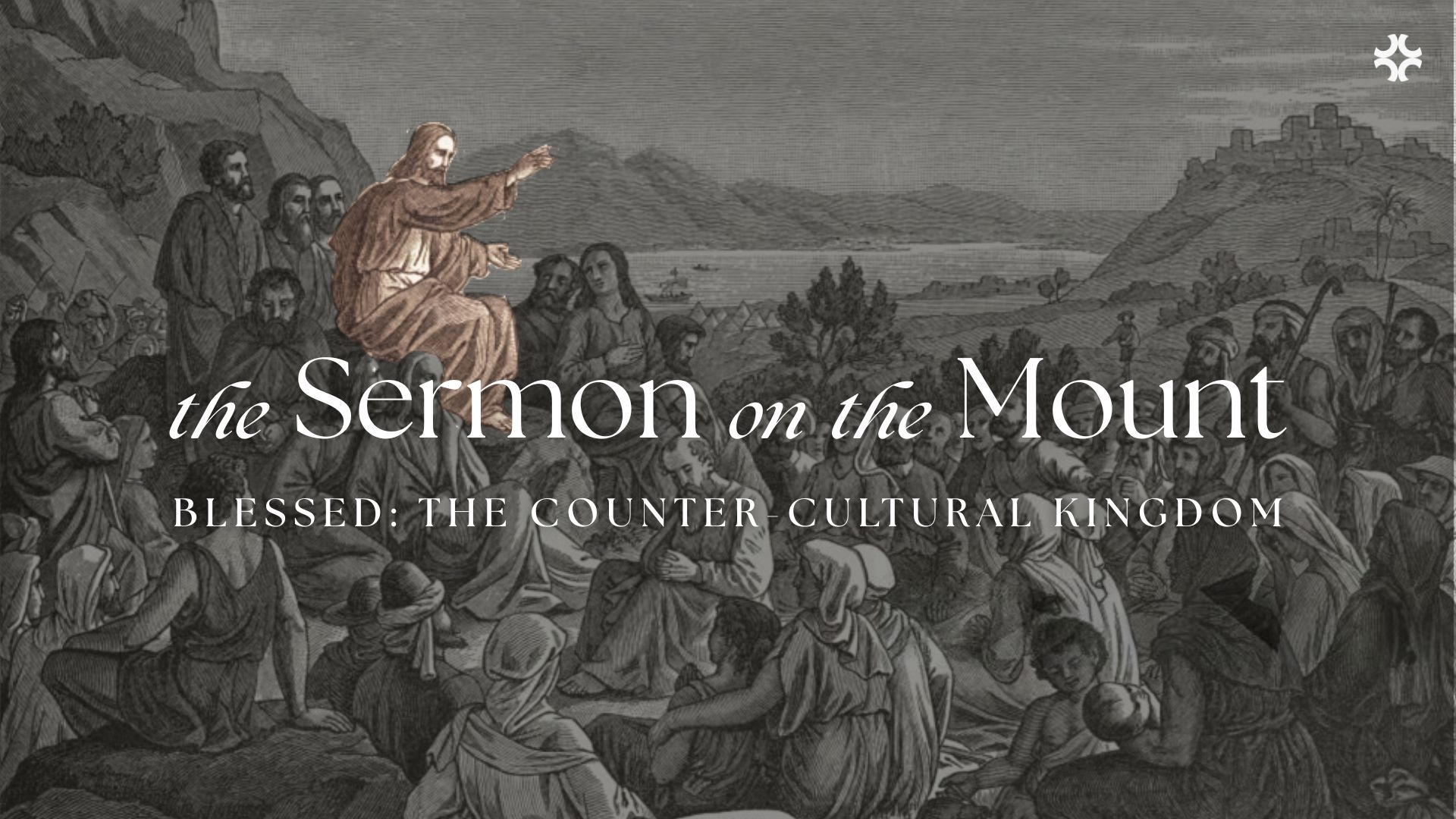


A detailed black and white illustration of Jesus teaching a large crowd on a hillside. Jesus is seated on a rock, wearing a brown robe, and gesturing with his right hand towards the crowd. He is surrounded by a large group of people, including men, women, and children, all dressed in traditional Middle Eastern attire. The background shows a body of water, distant hills, and a city with a castle on a hill. The overall scene is set in a rugged, mountainous landscape.

the Sermon on the Mount

BLESSED: THE COUNTER-CULTURAL KINGDOM

Matthew 5:31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' **32** But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. **33** "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not

Matthew 5:33 ...swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, **35** or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. **36** And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Matthew 5:37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. **38** "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' **39** But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. **40** And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your

Matthew 5:40 ...cloak as well. **41** And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. **42** Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. **43** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?

Matthew 5:47 ...Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

“All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object.” - Blaise Pascal

Matthew 5:3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:17-20

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them...

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Roadmap for Today

- Oaths and Vows
- Revenge and Retaliation
- Love and Hate
- Covenant and Divorce

Matthew 5:33-35

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

1. Oaths and Vows

Leviticus 19:12

“Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.”

“The essence of swearing that Jesus targets here is about invoking something or someone else, especially God, to make your words seem more significant and weighty. The aim is to impress others with your seriousness or piety so that you get what you want. It’s a device of manipulation designed to override the judgment or input of others in order to possess them for our purposes.”

– Dallas Willard

1. Oaths and Vows

Matthew 5:36-37

“And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

Matthew 5:38-42 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

2. Revenge and Retaliation

“The following illustrations in verses 39b-42 are not to be taken literally; they serve to drive home the point (almost to the point of absurdity) that a Christian rather than avenging himself upon a brother who has done him a personal wrong had better go to the opposite extreme!”

- RVG Tasker

2. Revenge and Retaliation

Matthew 5:43-46 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?...”

3. Love and Hate

Matthew 5:46-48

“...Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Leviticus 19:17-18 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

3. Love and Hate

Matthew 5:31-32

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

4. Covenant and Divorce

Genesis 2:18, 23-25 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” ... The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

4. Covenant and Divorce

Deuteronomy 24:1

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some **indecentcy** in her, and he writes her a **certificate of divorce** and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house.”

4. Covenant and Divorce

Matthew 19:3-6 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

4. Covenant and Divorce

1 Corinthians 7:15

“But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.”