MOUNTAIN VIEWS:
MOUNT OF BEATITUDES
Matthew 5-7

I. The View from the Mount of Beatitudes

Key Players:

Jesus: In Matthew's gospel we see a whirlwind of events; Jesus is baptized (Mt.3:13), Jesus is tempted in the wilderness (Mt.4:1), and right after that Jesus begins His ministry (Mt.4:17), calls some disciples (Mt.4:18), then teaches His most famous sermon: The Sermon on the Mount (Mt.5:1).

Crowds & Disciples: Matthew 4:25 says "large crowds followed Him [Jesus]." So, we can expect thousands on the hillside listening to Jesus, probably over several days.

The Beatitudes: Beatitude means a state of supreme happiness, blessedness, or utmost bliss. The "Beatitudes" are the first part of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Mt. 5-7). The 8 beatitudes are often translated as "Blessed are" or "Happy are".

1) *"God blesses those who are **poor and realize their need for Him**, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*
2) *God blesses those who **mourn**, for they will be comforted.*
3) *God blesses those who are **humble**, for they will inherit the whole earth.*
4) *God blesses those who **hunger and thirst for justice**, for they will be satisfied.*
5) *God blesses those who are **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.*
6) *God blesses those whose **hearts are pure**, for they will see God.*
7) *God blesses those who **work for peace**, for they will be called the children of God.*
8) *God blesses those who are **persecuted for doing right**, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." Matthew 5:3-10 (NLT)*

II. What can we learn from the Mount of the Beatitudes?

1. We are blessed when we <u>RECOGNIZE WE NEED GOD</u>. (Beatitudes 1,2,3, & 4 = Attitudes toward God)

1) *God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him…*
2) *God blesses those who mourn…*
3) *God blesses those who are humble…*
4) *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice…*

2. As followers of Jesus, we should <u>TREAT PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY</u>. (Beatitudes 5,6, & 7 = How we treat other people.)

5) *God blesses those who are merciful…*

6) *God blesses those whose hearts are pure…*

7) *God blesses those who work for peace…*

3. Following Jesus requires <u>COURAGE</u>, and it <u>COSTS US</u>. (Beatitude 8 reminds us of the "cost" to follow Jesus.)

8) *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right…*

III. Mountains in Review

- Mount Moriah: Abraham and Isaac…Is there anything I'm holding back from God?
- Mount Sinai: Moses and Hebrews…Do I find my identity in culture or in God?
- Mount Carmel: Elijah and prophets of Baal…What "altars" do I need to repair to experience God's power?
- Mount of Temptation: Jesus and devil…What temptations might Satan be using against me?
- Mount of Beatitudes: Jesus and crowd…How can I be more full of Jesus so that these characteristics take over my life?