

## **A. SERMON SLIDES**

Slide 1: Title

The Upside-Down Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-10

Slide 2:

Matthew 5:1–10 (ESV)

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

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Slide 3:

12 "Approaches" to the Sermon on the Mount

Absolutists

Modification

Hyperbole

General Principles

Attitudes-not-acts

Double-standard

Two-realms  
Analogy of scripture  
Interim ethic  
Modern dispensationalist  
Repentance  
Unconditional Divine will

Slide 4:

Define the Forest: The New Moses...a King  
Overview of the Forest: The Beauty and the Horror  
Beginning of the Forest: Upside Down Ethics  
Destination of the Forest: A Real Hero

Slide 5:

Definition  
Sermon on the Mount/Sermon on the Plain  
Matthew: A New Torah from a New Moses, A New King and a  
New Kingdom

Slide 6:

Matthew 7:28–29 (ESV)  
And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were  
astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who  
had authority, and not as their scribes.

Slide 7:

Overview  
Beauty: 14 Sermons  
(Relationship to the World) Upside-Down Kingdom  
(Relationship to the World) Inside-Out Kingdom  
(Relationship to the Word) New Law  
(Relationship to People) Relational Healing

(Integrity) Sexual

(Integrity) Words

(Relationship to Hurtful People) Hard Love

(Relationship to Poverty) How to Give

(Heart Check on Prayer) Humble Prayer

(Heart Check on Treasure) Where is our Storehouse?

(Heart Check on Worry) Why are We Anxious?

(Relationship to Sin) Don't Judge

(Conclusion) How Do We Get In?

(Conclusion) How Do We Know We Are In?

Slide 8:

The Horror

1) "The stuff the churches preach is extremely strict and allows for almost no fun without thinking it is a sin or not."

2) "I did not like the essay, 'Sermon on the Mount.' It was hard to read and made me feel like I had to be perfect and no one is."

3) "The things asked in this sermon are absurd. To look at a woman is adultery? To be angry is murder? Those are the most extreme, stupid, inhuman statements that I have ever heard.:"

Slide 9:

"At this point I began to be encouraged. There is something exquisitely innocent about not realizing you shouldn't call Jesus stupid. This was not exactly intellectual agnosticism talking here, usually the perceived foe of faith. It was just down-home hedonism. It was Herod watching Salome dance. It was the Disciples asking, "Who then can be saved?"

Slide 10:

"I find it strangely heartening that, except for the young man who found the Sermon on the Mount a guide to better manners, the

Bible remains offensive to honest, ignorant ears, just as it was in the 1st Century. They hated it. They were disgusted by it. They were angered by it.

The current widespread Biblical illiteracy should catapult us into a situation more nearly approximating that of their original, first-century audience. The Bible will no longer be choked by the cloying cultural associations.

Or...the underpinnings of society as we know it, already sagging dangerously, may collapse completely and we will find ourselves living impoverished, not in just the post-modern age, but in the New Barbarism, a sort of fluorescent Dark Age, like the inside of a mall."

Slide 11:

Far Away = What I Want Others To Do and Be

Slide 12:

The Beginning

Upside-Down

Blessed are:

Poor in Spirit, Those who Mourn, Meek, Those who are Starving for Righteousness, Merciful, Pure in Heart, Peacemakers, Those Persecuted for Righteousness

Slide 13:

We Need a Hero

Re-Stating the Beatitudes

Slide 14:

The Gospel doesn't substitute Grace for Obedience...

It gives us Grace to make Obedience possible, and secondary.

## **B) GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Have you had previous experience with the Sermon on the Mount teaching? How would you sum up the teaching, the meaning and purpose?
  
2. Why is the ethic and idea of the Sermon on the Mount beautiful? In what way is it terrifying?
  
3. Thought process: Imagine that you are a first century Jew who believed in the One True God and that the Torah was The Standard for living. Pretend that you are in the audience that heard these teachings. Do you feel like:
  - a) Jesus is making the Law easier?
  - b) Making the Law harder?
  - c) Changing the Law?
  - d) Explaining the Law as it was intended?
  - e) Honoring and expanding the Law
  - f) Dismissing the Old Law and introducing a New LawOthers?
  
4. How are the "Beatitudes" different from the rest of the teachings?
  
5. Read the beatitudes as written, and then re-read it replacing the first part with what Jesus has done so that we could experience the second part.  
(Example: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.")

"I am blessed that Jesus became poor in spirit and in every other way, so that I can have the kingdom of heaven.")

6. After this spiritual exercise, take some time to be quiet and then pray to God, expressing your thankfulness for what He has done.