

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### A New Way to Live

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
April 7, 2024



Matthew 4:23-25 (NLT) Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

Matthew 5:1-2 (NLT) “One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.”

## The Sermon on the Mount...

### 1) Centres on a relationship with Jesus as the Messianic King.

*“The Sermon...isn't just about how to behave. It's about discovering the living God in the loving, and dying, Jesus, and learning to reflect that love ourselves into the world that needs it so badly.” NT Wright*

### 2) Explains the ethics of the Kingdom of God.

### 3) Illustrates how we are to live in Kingdom community.

*“The sermon is not a list of requirements, but rather a description of life of a people gathered by and around Jesus.” Stanley Hauerwas*

### 4) Relates to grace and the Spirit.

Matthew 9:1-2 (NLT) Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. <sup>2</sup> Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.”

### 5) Requires a humble learning posture.

Matthew 7:24-29 (NLT) “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” <sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.”

- **Wise people hear His words and respond in obedience.**
- **Foolish people disregard the words of Jesus, failing to act according to His teachings.**

*“So, Jesus confronts us with himself, sets before us the radical choice between obedience and disobedience, and calls us to an unconditional commitment of mind, will and life to his teaching.” John Stott*

**Big Idea: Build your life on Jesus Christ to experience a new way to live.**

**Jesus is asking today.... Will you follow me? Will you build your life on me?**

- **A Prayer of Commitment:** *“Jesus I am here. I am sitting at your feet. I want to build my life on you and in you. Help me by your Holy Spirit to listen to you, to learn from you, and to trust and obey you as my Saviour & King.”*
- **Take on the 90 Day Gospel Reading Challenge:**

*“When Jesus called his society together he gave its members a new way of life to live. He gave them a new way to deal with offenders - by forgiving them. He gave them a new way to deal with violence - by suffering. He gave them a new way to deal with money - by sharing it. He gave them a new way to deal with problems of leadership - by drawing upon the gift of every member, even the most humble. He gave them a new way to deal with a corrupt society - by building a new order, not smashing the old. He gave them a new pattern of relationship between man and women, between parent and child, between master and servant, in which was made concrete a radical new vision of what it means to be a human person.” Stanley Hauerwas (Matthew Commentary)*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
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To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

**A New Way to Live**  
**#1 of 26 - April 7, 2024**

- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) Here is a resource from the Bible Project to help you better understand the Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew. <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-5-7-sermon-overview>
- 3) Read Matthew 5:1-2, and Matthew 7:24-29. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 6) What is Jesus asserting in using the image of the two different houses with two different foundations? In what ways can we build our lives on “shifting things”? Can you share an example of how this happened for you?
- 7) What does it look like to build our lives on the foundation of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? How does this help us when the storms of life come?
- 8) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways do you need to apply this truth today?
- 9) Consider praying this prayer of commitment to Christ: *“Jesus I am here. I am sitting at your feet. I want to build my life on you and in you. Help me by your Holy Spirit to listen to you, to learn from you, and to trust and obey you as my Saviour & King.”*



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