



SERMON ON THE **MOUNT**

**“No One Ever Meets Jesus
and Stays the Same”
Matthew 4:23-5:3**

²³And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.²⁴And the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

Matthew 4:23-5:3

²⁵And large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ²And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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Introduction

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B. The title first came into use in the writings of Augustine (354-430). He was right to call Matthew 5-7 a sermon, for we find instruction and application throughout this discourse.

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D. What does it mean to have a Christian lifestyle in the pluralistic, secularized world in which we live? To what extent are Christians really different from other people? How can we live like a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden?

Introduction

E. Jesus put His finger on a number of issues of supreme importance. What does kingdom living in a Genesis 3 world look like? What is Christian character? What is the place of the law of God in the Christian's life? Is discipline important? How should we pray? How can we be free from anxiety in an anxiety-ridden world? What is so wrong about a judgmental spirit?

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G. The Sermon on the Mount forces us to consider what impact we are making for Christ and His kingdom.

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H. Big Idea: The gospel of the kingdom produces Christ-exalting transformation.

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I. No one ever meets Jesus and stays the same!

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B. In the American version of Christianity we have made the gospel all about an individual’s salvation to the degree that a person can say a prayer and then live like they always have and no one can question whether they’re actually saved or not.

I. Jesus Proclaimed and Demonstrated the Power of the Gospel of the Kingdom (4:23-25)

C. We live in an age of “easy believism.” Many have a brylcream religion: Just a dab will do. But there’s no substance. No transformation. No obvious surrender to Christ. No new heart that longs for God.

I. Jesus Proclaimed and Demonstrated the Power of the Gospel of the Kingdom (4:23-25)

D. The phrase “the gospel of the kingdom” awakens us to the fact that it’s not all about us but it’s all about the glory of God. Jesus is Lord. Christ is king. The kingdom is the rule or reign of God, the expression of God’s sovereign will.

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E. Christians, we are the bride of Christ, the church, and warriors for Christ as we faithfully proclaim “the gospel of the kingdom.”

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G. By both His words and His works Jesus revealed that He was God’s Messiah. He began reversing the curse of sin.

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B. When Jesus sat down and delivered the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke from His divine chair with absolute authority as the sovereign King.

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(1) The sermon does not teach men and women how to live to get into the kingdom of heaven, but how men and women in the kingdom of heaven should live.

II. Jesus Explained the Secret of True Happiness (5:1-2)

(2) The sermon shows the absolute necessity of the new birth. The key interpretive verse in the Sermon on the Mount is Matthew 5:20.

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” The best you can do is not enough. “All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment” (Isaiah 64:6). You need the righteousness of Christ to be accepted by God.

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D. To be truly happy you must obey Jesus' command in Matthew 4:17. "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

II. Jesus Explained the Secret of True Happiness (5:1-2)

E. Jesus is the secret to true happiness.

III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

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III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

A. This is the first of eight beatitudes presented in verses 3-12. It is important that we understand the beatitudes do not tell us what we must do. They tell us who we are and who we are becoming in Christ. They describe the blessings, the covenant grace and joy, that belong to people whose lives show the marks of the kingdom of God.

III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

B. “Blessed” (makarios)—To be blessed is not a superficial feeling of happiness based on circumstance, but a deep supernatural experience of contentedness (happiness) based on the fact that one’s life is right with God.

III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

C. “Blessed are the poor in spirit”—In Christ we ARE blessed, right now. Being “poor in spirit” is to recognize you are spiritually bankrupt before God. The word “poor” did not simply mean lacking. It meant having absolutely nothing.

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D. In order to be happy in Christ we must see ourselves as we really are: lost, hopeless, helpless.

III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

E. This ability to see ourselves as we really are is a gift from God. The Holy Spirit gives sight to the spiritually blind enabling us to see who we are before the holy God.

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E. This ability to see ourselves as we really are is a gift from God. The Holy Spirit gives sight to the spiritually blind enabling us to see who we are before the holy God.

F. Apart from Jesus Christ every person is spiritually bankrupt, no matter what his education, wealth, social standing, accomplishments, or religious knowledge.

III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

G. “Jesus put this beatitude first because humility is the foundation of all other graces, a basic element in becoming a Christian (Matt. 18:3-4)” (John MacArthur).

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G. “Jesus put this beatitude first because humility is the foundation of all other graces, a basic element in becoming a Christian (Matt. 18:3-4)” (John MacArthur).

H. Pride has no part in Christ’s kingdom. We cannot begin the Christian life without humility.

III. Jesus Emphasized That True Happiness Begins with Humility (5:3)

I. To experience humility we must (1) turn our eyes off ourselves and look to God; (2) starve the flesh by removing the things on which it feeds; and (3) ask God for it.

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I. To experience humility we must (1) turn our eyes off ourselves and look to God; (2) starve the flesh by removing the things on which it feeds; and (3) ask God for it.

J. “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven”—People who come to the King in humility inherit His kingdom.

Conclusion

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C. Are you saved? Are you trusting in Christ for your salvation?

Conclusion

D. The Gospel Definition

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.

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