

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Matthew 4:23-5:2

### *Introduction and the Kingdom of God*

#### I. Introduction: The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel

##### A. Is it really a sermon?

1. Title comes from the North African theologian, Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

##### B. Divisions of Matthew as a Key to S.O.M.: "What is the Sermon About?"

1. Chapters 5-7 are part of a pattern that runs through the Gospel (7:28, 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)
2. Each extended discourse or "sermon" deals with same theme: *The Kingdom of God*

"And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished..." (Matt 7:28)

3. What is the Kingdom of God? Is it geographical? What then is the message of the SOM?
4. When did the Kingdom begin? Is it fully here? Why does this make holiness difficult to achieve?

"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom..." (Matt 4:23)

"In a word, the message of the Sermon on the Mount is, 'This is what it means to repent and belong to the kingdom of heaven.' The sermon is a description of the lifestyle of those who belong to that kingdom"  
- Sinclair Ferguson

5. Conclusion = The S.O.M. is about what living in the Kingdom of God looks like!

##### C. Another Division as a Key to S.O.M.: "Who is the Preacher?"

1. Matthew can be divided into three sections ending with "from that time on..." (4:17, 16:21)
  - i. Matthew 1:1-4:16 - Jesus identified as the King
  - ii. Matthew 4:17-16:20 - Jesus as the authoritative King
  - iii. Matthew 16:21-28:20 - Jesus as the suffering King
2. Conclusion = The Gospel of Matthew is all about Jesus!
3. How is reading the S.O.M. different from listening to an unknown preacher online? Does the S.O.M. itself allow us to treat this sermon that way?

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you...on my account." (Matt 5:11)

"But I say to you..." (Matt 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44)

"And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matt 7:23)

##### D. Introductory Thoughts: The SOM is about living as a Kingdom member and, as such, taking seriously the Lordship of Christ over you.

## II. Encouraging Principles to Remember While Studying the S.O.M. (from Martyn Lloyd-Jones' *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*)

- A. "The Lord Jesus Christ died to enable us to live the Sermon on the Mount."
- B. "Nothing shows me the absolute need of the new birth, and of the Holy Spirit and His work within, so much as the Sermon on the Mount. These Beatitudes crush me to the ground."
- C. "The more we live and try to practice this Sermon on the Mount, the more shall we experience blessing."
- D. "[Living out the Sermon on the Mount] is the best means of evangelism."

## III. Introduction to the Beatitudes

- A. "Beatitude" comes from the Latin 'beatus' for "blessed, happy". Which word is better? This is a theme that runs throughout Scripture.

- 1. What does it mean to be "blessed"? (Hint: Think in covenant terms! Num 6:22-25!)

"To be 'blessed' means, fundamentally, to be approved, to find approval." - D.A. Carson

"This blessing is simply fellowship with God... It means having a right relationship to God, and enjoying Him as we should." - Sinclair Ferguson

- 2. Where are there other Beatitudes in Scripture? Is Jesus doing something new here in Matt 5?
- 3. Which Beatitudes do you identify with? Which suit your personality? What's the problem with this line of thinking?
- 4. What does the same promise in the first and last Beatitude imply about the whole set?
- 5. Think of the greatest Christians you've known. Did they all have the same personality? What did they have in common?

- B. The Beatitudes mark out what is unnatural for fallen man. Therefore, they draw a line between the desires, speech, and actions of a Christian over against a non-Christian.

- 1. Final Question to Consider: If you made a list of the top 8 things you wanted for this life, how would they match up with the Beatitudes?

*"So we must not only take the injunctions of the Sermon seriously. We must also check our particular interpretation in the light of the principles I have given. Beware of the spirit of arguing against them; beware of making them ridiculous; and beware of so interpreting them as to regard any one of them as impossible. Here is the life to which we are called, and I maintain again that if only every Christian in the Church today were living the Sermon on the Mount, the great revival for which we are praying and longing would already*

*have started. Amazing and astounding things would happen; the world would be shocked, and men and women would be drawn and attracted to the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” - Martyn Lloyd-Jones, 23.*