



The Sermon on the Mount

July 20

INTRODUCTION: The Sermon on the Mount is arguably one of Jesus most famous sermons. It gets its name from the hillside from which He preached, Mt 5:1 (traditional location= Tabgha NW of Capernaum). In Mt 4:17 we're introduced to how to follow the King and join His Kingdom (God's rule and reign), of which the Church is the outpost in the world.

Mt 5-7 may be said to be Jesus' teaching of what renewed life and ethics looks like within His Kingdom community for His disciples (disciple, as in Mt 5:1, is someone committed to following Jesus. 'Crowds' are those curious about Jesus). It is the King's Word to His people. Like Moses on Mt. Sinai Jesus authoritatively and with great brilliance instructs His people in His New Covenant ways. Jesus is the one greater than Moses (Dt. 18:15). He thus fulfils and continues the OT story (see genealogy in ch. 1). What a perfect place to dwell as we conclude *A Living Faith*—exploring Kingdom life.

There have been many attempts to categorize the Sermon. A basic outline is as follows:

Mt 5:2-16	Beatitudes and Witness	Upside Down Kingdom
Mt 5:17-48	The Kingdom and the Law	Fulfil the Law
Mt 6:1-7:12	Developing a Kingdom life	Transformed Hearts
Mt 7:13-29	A Warning	For or Against

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Jonathan Ward)

- What was the subject of the sermon?
- What were the main points?
- What struck you or what did you learn?
- Other

READ IN ADVANCE: Mt 5-7

CHALLENGE: In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

QUESTIONS:

1. From skimming the sermon on the mount, what strikes you? What are your general impressions?
2. How is the sermon appealing?
3. How is the sermon daunting?
4. What do you find hard to understand?
5. What does the passage teach us about God or Jesus as the Son of God?
6. What does it teach us about ourselves (Christians/non-Christians)?
7. How does the Sermon explore the heart, Godly principles and life issues?
8. *There are 50 imperative commands in the sermon and even Mt 5:48, which may lead us to ask, 'How can I embrace such a life!'* How are 4:23-25 and the miracles of ch. 8 a clue?
9. How does the Law point people to the Gospel?
10. Despite a focus on disciples, what points of the sermon is invitational/evangelistic?
11. In the early centuries it was Christianity's rigorous morality that attracted people to it. Could this ever be the case again?

FUNFACT: the middle of the sermon is 6:11.

Next Week: The Beatitudes, pt. I (Mt 5:2-6)