



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
THE SERMON ON THE
MOUNT

Background – Isaiah 61:1-3

- *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim **good news** to the **poor**. He has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim **freedom for the captives** and **release from darkness for the prisoners**, to proclaim the year of the LORD's **favor** and the day of vengeance of our God, to **comfort all who mourn**, and **provide** for those who **grieve** in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of **joy instead of mourning**, and a garment of **praise instead of a spirit of despair**. They will be called oaks of **righteousness**, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*

Sounds like pretty good news right?

Background – Luke 4

- *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*
- Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”
- What is Jesus saying in this act? And what does Luke want to tell us?

What is the Sermon on the Mount?

- Core of Jesus' teaching
- Matthew 5-7
- Luke 6
- Listen for the echoes of the Prophets
- *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (Mt 28:19-20)*
- *What does Jesus want his followers to obey?*

What is the Sermon on the Mount?

- The Beatitudes
- Salt and Light
- Fulfilling the Law
- Murder
- Adultery
- Divorce
- Oaths
- Eye for Eye
- Love for Enemies

- *Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples **came to him**, and he began to teach them. (Mt 5:1-2)*
- *What kind of teaching is this?*

What is the Sermon on the Mount?

- Giving
- Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Fasting
- Treasures in Heaven
- Worry
- Judging Others
- Ask, Seek, Knock
- *‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** (Mt 7:21)*
- *What does "Lord, Lord" mean?*

What is the Sermon on the Mount?

- Narrow and Wide Gates
- True and False Prophets
- True and False Disciples
- Wise and Foolish Builders
- *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were **amazed** at his teaching, because he taught as one who **had authority**, and not as their teachers of the law. (Mt 7:28-29)*
- *What was the difference?*

Sermon on the Mount – How do you see it?

- Nice Sayings?
- Hard Sayings?
- Ideals?
- Commands?
- General Guidance?
- Something Else?



Warning! Your view
might change!



My Understanding

- This is what it means to follow Jesus.
- The sinful patterns identified here are to be gotten rid of.
- The transforming initiatives shown here are the way forward.
- The heart attitudes Jesus requires from us are clearly identified.
- The sermon describes the kind of people we are to become if we want to be followers of Jesus.
- This is what it means to actually be a disciple of Jesus.



Big Themes

Authority

Heart
Attitudes

Doing it.

The Beatitudes (Mt 5:3-12)

(The Blessings)

Blessed Are

- Blessed are the poor in Spirit
- Blessed are those who mourn
- Blessed are the meek
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

For

- For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- For they will be comforted.
- For they will inherit the earth.
- For they will be filled.

The Beatitudes (The Blessings)

Blessed Are

- Blessed are the merciful
- Blessed are the pure in heart.
- Blessed are the peacemakers.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.

For

- For they will be shown mercy.
- For they will see God.
- For they will be called children of God.
- For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Beatitudes (The Blessings)

- How are we to take these sayings?
- Can also be translated "Happy are..." (Gk. Makarios)
- Some say "Ideals". Even unobtainable ideals.
- Some say "Jesus' theory of happiness"
- What do you think?

Blessedness

*Not a command, but a
relational state of being
resulting from what is stated in the
rest of the sentence. (Giles)*

What do you think about that?

The Beatitudes

A collection of heart postures and attitudes lived in relationship with God rather than emotional responses to events.

The Beatitudes

- *Are not the Beatitudes a manifesto for the serious Jesus-follower? A constant reminder of the crucial touch-points of character and heart orientations required to occupy this chair? Yet, the disciple is not doomed to shoulder these alone as burdens, but rather to be encouraged by God's participative gracious supply of the predicates of each.*
- *God will give the kingdom, provide the comfort, the earth inheritance, the filling, the mercy, the vision of Himself, the placement into his family, and the gift of kingdom participation. (Kitchen)*

Poor in Spirit

- *Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- What does poor in spirit mean?
- What does this tell us about the kingdom of heaven?
- Isaiah 61:1, 2 good news to the oppressed . . . the year of the Lord's favor
- Hebrew word for "poor" means both economically and spiritually humble.
- Followers of Jesus participate in God's reign by humbling themselves before God, giving themselves over to God, depending on God's deliverance, and following God in caring for the poor and oppressed. In a nutshell, blessed are the humble before God, who cares for the poor and the humble. (S&G, 28)
- Normally it's the rich and the pushy who get what they want. The Kingdom is different

Those who mourn

- *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- *Mourning about what?*
 - *Bereavement?*
 - *Godly Sorrow – 2 Cor 7:8-11*
 - *Bemoaning the sin of others – tell you again with tears (Phil 3:18)*
 - *Binding up the broken-hearted*
- **Action : Self-reflection.** (e.g. Ps 139:24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way ever-lasting).
- **Not left to mourn alone.**