

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Blessings of the Kingdom

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What do I hope to accomplish today?

- Think through how we approach the Sermon on the Mount
- Consider how teaching through the Sermon will help your church
- Encourage a desire in you to teach the Sermon on the Mount
- Give you some helps toward teaching the Sermon on the Mount

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Various Approaches to the Sermon on the Mount

- **The impossible view**
 - The Sermon on the Mount is a heightened version of the Law, meant to demonstrate our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

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 - The Sermon on the Mount is a heightened version of the Law, meant to demonstrate our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.
- **The elite view**
 - The Sermon on the Mount reveals a higher level of discipleship for the most committed discipleships (clergy, monastics, etc.).

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- **The temporary view**
 - The Sermon on the Mount is an ethic to be lived out only in certain eras of the church.
- **The civil view**
 - The Sermon on the Mount is to be directly applied in civil spheres.

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What is the Sermon's place in the Bible?

- Two considerations
 - Matthew has taught us to read His Gospel in light of the Old Testament
 - Matthew encourages us to think of the Old Testament Law and Moses as we read the Sermon
 - Matthew 5:1- “Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.” (ESV)

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The Role of the Old Testament Law

- We must see the goodness and purpose of God's Law to understand the Sermon on the Mount
 - Deuteronomy 4:5-8
 - “⁵ See, I now teach you rules and regulations *just* as Yahweh my God has commanded me, to observe *them just* so in the midst of the land where you *are* going, to take possession of it. ⁶ And you must observe them diligently, for that *is* your wisdom and your insight before the eyes of the people, who will hear all *of* these rules, and they will say, ‘Surely this great nation *is* a wise and discerning people.’ ⁷ For what great nation *has* for it a god near to it as Yahweh our God, whenever we call *upon* him? ⁸ And what *other* great nation has for it just rules and regulations just like this whole law that I *am* setting before you today?” (LEB)

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The Theme of the Sermon on the Mount

- Three Verses
 - 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (ESV).
 - 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (ESV).
 - 5:48 ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (ESV).

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The Theme of the Sermon on the Mount

- On Matthew 5:17-20
 - “The body of the sermon begins here. The central issue is the relationship of Jesus’ kingdom teaching (in a sense, a new Torah) to the old Torah or law. When one realizes the radical nature of this new ethical teaching, it is understandable that Jesus begins with this issue. He wants to make clear that he is unwavering in his adherence to the Torah. This supplements but does not replace Torah; rather, it is the true explication of Torah, the implications that have not been previously understood.”
 - Clinton Arnold, *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary*

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What does the Sermon on the Mount do?

- The Sermon on the Mount is meant to show how God's people display the character and wisdom of God as a light to the rest of the world
- The Sermon on the Mount is about forming the character of the people of God to mimic the character of God for the sake of the world.

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The Theology of the Sermon

- The King and His character
- The Kingdom and its ethics
- The Kingdom and the world

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The Theology of the Sermon

- The King and His character
 - God is a giver of good Laws that reflect His character
 - God rewards and blesses those who seek Him
 - God takes care of and provides for those who seek Him
 - God rejects those who do not do His will

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The Theology of the Sermon

- The Kingdom and its ethics
 - Jesus' disciples should imitate the perfect character of their Father
 - Jesus' disciples should excel in righteousness, in obedience to God's commands
 - Jesus' disciples should practice their righteousness to be seen by their Father, for his reward, and not for the reward of men
 - Jesus' disciples should have great confidence in the provision of their Father

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The Theology of the Sermon

- The Kingdom and the world
 - Jesus' disciples will be rejected and persecuted by the world
 - Jesus' disciples should have a positive impact on the world, by their good works, leading people to glorify God
 - Jesus' disciples should not practice their righteousness for the approval of the world
 - Jesus' disciples should be distinct from hypocrites, and they should love and pray for their enemies

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Outline of the Sermon

- 5:1-16- The Call to God's people
 - 9 beatitudes for the new people of God (5:3-12)
 - The new covenant witness of the people of God (5:13-16)
- Greater righteousness in relation to God's Laws (5:17-48)
 - Proposition (5:17-20)
 - 6 exegeses/examples (5:21-47)
 - Summary (5: 48)
- Greater righteousness in relation to piety toward God (6:1-21)
 - Introduction- Pleasing the Father in heaven, not humans (6:1)
 - Three examples (6:2-18)
 - Central teaching on prayer (6:7-15)
 - Conclusion- rewards in heaven, not on earth (6:19-21)

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Outline of the Sermon

- Greater Righteousness in relation to the world (6:19-7:12)
 - The Bridge to Wholeness (6:19-34)
 - Righteousness in relation to the goods of this world
 - The Right Way to Judge (7:1-12)
 - Righteousness in relation to the people of this world
- Conclusion: Three warnings regarding this prospect (7:13-27)
 - Two Kinds of Paths (7:13-14)
 - Two Kinds of Prophets (7:15-23)
 - Two Kinds of Builders (7:24-27)

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Greater Righteousness

- Greater righteousness mimics the righteousness of God
- Greater righteousness fulfills the intent of the Law
- Greater righteousness is done in secret for the Father's reward
- Greater righteousness is salt and light to the world

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