

Jesus in His Own Words: A Sermon Series
Week 1: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven
April 11, 2021
Matthew 4:23-5:1

Introduction and Context: The Sermon on the Mount is not only the Scripture of the church but also the _____ that made sense to the Jewish disciples who followed Jesus.

"If we get Jesus's context wrong, we'll get him wrong."

-Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Jesus is not a _____ talking to other Christians; he is a _____ talking to other Jews.

Jesus is not telling his fellow Jews to do _____ with Torah...Rather, he is giving them insight into the _____ of the law, and telling them to listen up.

Jesus is providing instruction on how best to live into the _____ of the kingdom of heaven now.

What the Sermon on the Mount is _____: 1. Not _____. Matthew 5: 2-5

2. Not a list of general _____ principles.

3. Not a list of things we _____ do.

Jesus is declaring *"an objective reality as the result of a divine act."*

- Dr. Eugene Boring, Professor of New Testament, Brite Divinity School, TCU

Terms: Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus uses "the kingdom of heaven" as a contrast to "the kingdoms of _____."

"Heaven is a different place, a better place, a real place, a place where God rules and life is as God wants rather than as humanity has constructed." – Dr. Levine

The "kingdom of heaven" is where what God wants done is done.

"The kingdom of heaven occurs when people take the words of Jesus in these chapters to heart and live into them." – Dr. Levine

The kingdom of heaven is where past, _____, and future unite at table eating together with no borders, no bias, and no bigotry.

Repent: not simply a matter of saying we are sorry but includes _____ what was wronged.

What Is a Beatitude? (From Jerome's 4th century translation of the Bible into Latin: *beati*)

The Greek NT word is *makarios* translated as "_____." Jeremiah 17:7-8, Psalm 118:26

The beatitudes or blessings are nothing short of God's _____ for human life.

"When we hear that we are blessed, we should hear as well a sense of _____."

A blessing given, a talent bestowed, if unappreciated and unused, is wasted." – Dr. Levine

The opposite of "blessed" is "_____."

The beatitudes are not _____ for conversion, but a declaration of the "marks of the church." Mt 5:1-11

Jesus on "blessedness": happy, fulfilled, whole, fully human

Jesus is introducing us to the contrast between life as the present world _____ it and life as God _____ it.

The gospel is less about how to get into the Kingdom of Heaven after you die, and more about how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven before you die. – Dallas Willard

Action Steps: _____ today in a way that will require you to mourn deeply one day.

_____ in a way that brings honor to the memory of your parents and how they raised you.

_____ the power and love God has given you to live in the kingdom of heaven today.