

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS: PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM ON THE MOUNTAINS/JESUS WENT UP THE MOUNTAIN



SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION

The scripture for this week is Matthew 5:1-12, 7:24-29.

Proclaiming the Kingdom on the Mountains

When Jesus¹ saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^{11a} on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Proclaiming the Kingdom on the Mountains

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not

act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

REFLECTION/CONTEXT

These scriptures are the longest piece of Jesus’s teachings and include the Beatitudes and the Lord’s Prayer. The Beatitudes present the highest ideals of the teachings of Jesus on mercy, spirituality and compassion. They are focus on love and humility rather than force and mastery.

People sometimes compare the Ten Commandments to the Beatitudes. Both teach us how to live a better Christian life. Both can be found in the Bible. Moses received the Ten Commandments from God so he could tell his people God’s instructions.

The Ten Commandments, given to Moses on Mount Sinai in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, related a series of "Thou shalt not" phrases, evils one must avoid in daily life on earth.

The Beatitudes are spoken by Jesus to his people during his Sermon on the Mount in Galilee. Jesus presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, virtues in life which will ultimately lead to reward. Love becomes the motivation for the Christian. The Beatitudes are eight special blessings that promise Jesus’s people hope.

ACTIVITIES

Call and Response to say the Beatitudes.

- Use call and response to say beatitudes
- Take turns so that everyone has a chance to do both parts.
- towards the end of the week might be fun to take a quick walk and say these aloud like a camp song.

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- ³Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the Earth.
- ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
- ⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say
all kinds of evil against you because of me.
- ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Lord's Prayer- Jesus taught us that prayer in his Sermon on the Mount.

- Say it quietly in your heart and head, or out loud with your family.

Play With Sand- Use Your Sand

- Attempt to recreate the image of Jesus on the Mountain top with sand.

WRITE POST CARD

Write someone in our congregation 23-40 years old. You can search anyone in our online directory for their age. **Pick one of the Beatitudes, copy it onto the enclosed postcard and share why it is meaningful to you.**

Much love to my church family! I hope we can share the love of Jesus in person together later this year. – Katie Cook