

A person stands on the peak of a mountain, silhouetted against a warm, golden sunset sky. The mountain's ridges are visible in the distance, creating a sense of depth and scale. A light-colored rectangular box with a thin green border is centered over the image, containing the title and subtitle. Two dark horizontal bars are positioned on either side of the box, appearing to hold it in place.

The Sermon on the Mount

The Beatitudes

Matthew Chapter 5 verses 1-12

Jesus Addresses His Disciples

The mountain is above Tabgha, near Capernaum, on a ridge of hills north-west of the town with a magnificent view of the sea of Galilee

'Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. '

“Seeing the crowds” OR setting the scene Matthew 4:23-25

' And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So, his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.'

Decapolis is the “10 cities” populated by Romans and Gentiles located to the south and east of the Sea of Galilee.

“Beyond the Jordan” is the region of Perea, to the East of the river.

Jesus “went up on a mountain and when he sat down, his disciples came to him”, but who was he talking to ... the crowds or to his disciples?

**“The
authorative
message of the
messiah:
kingdom life
for his
disciples”**

**Matthew 5:1 to
7:29**

- The first of 5 major discords in Matthew – see also chapters 10, 13, 18-20 and 24-25
- Jesus expounds the reality of discipleship – he is first & foremost addressing his Disciples
- A challenging but practical ethic that Jesus expects his followers to live by in this present age
- Probably a summary of a longer message
- It has similarities to the ‘sermon on the plain’ in Luke 6:17-49 i.e.
 - May record the same sermon but with different emphasis
 - May be two different sermons, given on different occasions, but which include similar content OR
 - A collection of sayings that Jesus gave at different times, put together into a sermon format

What does it mean to be “blessed”?

(we thought to be ‘really happy’, to be comforted, to receive something that is good for you, to be improved by it, to improve your situation in life and to be content in who you are and what you have)

More than a temporary or circumstantial feeling of happiness

This is a state of wellbeing in relationship with God

It belongs to those who respond to Jesus’s ministry

What do the 'blessed' states mean? 1-3



The Poor in Spirit – theirs
is the kingdom of heaven

- Recognise that they need God's help
- Those who confess their spiritual bankruptcy

Those who mourn – they
shall be comforted

- The loss resulting from sin
- Spiritual, emotional or financial
- Lead to a longing for God's forgiveness

The meek – for they shall
inherit the earth

- The gentle – those that do not assert themselves over others to further their own agendas, but who trust in God

What do the 'blessed' states mean? 4-6



Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

- Recognise that God is the ultimate source of real righteousness
- They shall be satisfied through his invitation to be with him

The merciful, for they shall receive mercy

- The kindness and forgiveness that they show to others will be shown to them

The pure in heart, for they shall see God

- For whom the pursuit of purity and uprightness affects all areas of their lives
- Not external but internal purity!

What do the 'blessed' states mean? 7-9



The Peacemakers – they shall
be called 'sons of God'

- Those who promote messianic peace (shalom), total wellbeing both personally and communally
- Will get the ultimate reward

Those who are persecuted
for righteousness sake

- Theirs is also the Kingdom of Heaven
- Wrongly treated because they value him above everything in the world

You, when others revile you
on my account

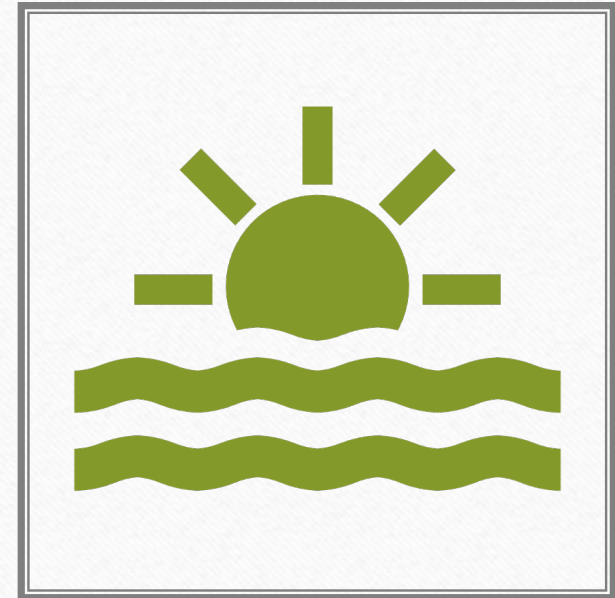
- Their reward may not come on earth, but ...
- Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven

The metaphors on salt and light – Matthew 5: 13-16 the impact that his disciples will have on the world around them

' "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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. '

WHY DID JESUS USE SALT AND LIGHT TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT?



Salt and Light



Salt is beneficial in many ways (as seasoning, as a preservative etc.) so if the disciples are ‘the salt of the earth’ then they are a positive influence on the world – but if it loses its taste, what then?



The disciples already have the kingdom life within them, so they will shine, so long as they do not hide away – he is telling them to be bold.

Not The End

It's only the beginning ...

Bible Study Notes from 29/11/22

- The 'blessed' states – the rich only prosper temporarily but the meek / poor will prosper eternally if they accept Jesus, hunger and thirst are life threatening situations to be in, the passion for righteousness comes from having a Godly character – these were the traits that he wanted his disciples to show and a direct contradiction to the way of the world!
- Is there a difference in the promises of the different blessed states though? See Psalm 37. Does the blessing for the meek (inherit the earth) refer to the 2nd coming – is it better than seeing God or being in the Kingdom?
- The distinctive Beatitudes are the blessings that result from the activities of Jesus
- Salt is added to improve something, maybe even to transform it! If they lose their saltiness, then they lose their effectiveness – salt also PURIFIES (great point from Sylvie); if we don't try to change the world then what's the point of being a Christian?
- The Light is their impact on the darkness of the world, but they must be BOLD – let your little light shine! – Jesus is the light and through the holy spirit they can be the same!