

# The Sermon on the Mount

## The Blessings of the Kingdom **now and later** (5:1-12)

Blessings to people who don't look blessed in the here and now

|        | NOW | FUTURE |
|--------|-----|--------|
| EARTH  |     |        |
| HEAVEN |     |        |

Blessings that show that the King has arrived

- <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;
- <sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
- <sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

Have you had experience of being treated badly for your faith? How does Matthew 5:1-12 help you to "Rejoice and be Glad"?

## Salt and light and fulfilling the law – **"you are" before "you should"** (5:13-20)

You *are* the salt of the earth

You *are* the light of the world

Let your light shine

Fulfilling the law

Righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees

THE LUTHERAN VIEW

THE REFORMED VIEW

How do these verses motivate you to live obedient lives? How can we remind each other that it's "you are" before "you should"?

**“You have heard it was said ... but I say to you...” – the law is impossible (5:12-48)**

**Murder**

- take *urgent* action to avoid malice

|   |
|---|
| It was said by whom?                      |
| - by the Law?                             |
| - by the Pharisees?                       |
| - by the Law, according to the Pharisees? |

**Adultery**

- take *radical* action to avoid lust

**Divorce**

- God’s plan is for lifelong marriage

**Oaths**

- just tell the truth

**Vengeance**

- “an eye for an eye” is a good principle for the courts
- but when wronged personally, turn the other cheek

**Love your neighbour**

- love your *enemy*
- noone does that ... except your heavenly Father!

**Don’t be a hypocrite but pray and fast and give in secret**

Everyone gets a reward. The only question is *when* and *from whom?*

“to be seen by others”      “they have received their reward”  
 “you Father...”              “...will reward you”

|               |            |               |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
|               | <b>NOW</b> | <b>FUTURE</b> |
| <b>EARTH</b>  |            |               |
| <b>HEAVEN</b> |            |               |

The iceberg factor

**Store up treasure in heaven not on earth**

Because it will last (6:19-20)

Because your heart will follow your wallet (6:21)      **ACTIONS ⇨ HEART**

Because a “bad eye” begrudges generosity (6:22-23, cf. Deuteronomy 15:9; Matthew 20:15)

Because you can’t serve God and money (6:24)

|               |            |               |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
|               | <b>NOW</b> | <b>FUTURE</b> |
| <b>EARTH</b>  |            |               |
| <b>HEAVEN</b> |            |               |

**Seek first the kingdom of God**

The order of the Lord’s Prayer (6:9-13)

The “therefore” of 6:25

A great memory verse

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (6:33)

## Because you have a good heavenly Father

He knows what you need (6:8, 32)

He cares about you more than sparrows (6:26)

He loves to answer prayers (7:7-11)

How might a) a love of money b) anxiety c) a combination of these, hold us back from wholehearted service of God? How might we help each other maintain a future focus? How might we remind each other of a Heavenly Father who provides now and rewards later?

## Don't judge?

There's nothing wrong with judging – removing specks is helpful

The problem is hypocrisy – ignoring planks is stupid (7:3)

Repent before correcting others (7:5)

## Members of Jesus' Kingdom fulfil the law

Introduction (5:1)

“Do not think I have come to abolish the *Law or the Prophets*;  
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them” (5:17)

Jesus' exposition of the law and life in the Kingdom

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the *Law and the Prophets*” (7:12)

Conclusion (7:28-29)

How would you apply Jesus' golden rule to relationships at home? How would you apply it to relationships at your church? How would you apply it to relationships at work?

## Choose the narrow way that leads to life by hearing and obeying Jesus

Two responses to the words of Jesus

HEART ⇌ ACTIONS

Two destinations

Pray that we would hear the words of Jesus and do them, and teach others to do the same. Pray this specifically in relation to things that have challenged you from the Sermon on the Mount