

# The Gospel of Matthew

## *"The Sermon of the Mount"* Matthew 5 – 7

## Sermon on the Mount

### Overview

1. Theme: "kingdom of heaven"
  - a description of the lifestyle of those who belong to the kingdom of heaven
  - a description of living the kingdom life in a fallen, hostile world

## Sermon on the Mount

### Overview

2. Purpose: discipleship
  - a call to a radical, counter-cultural lifestyle that is distinct from the pagan and religious world
  - a warning and invitation to those who have not entered the kingdom

## Sermon on the Mount

### The Foundation: "*the beatitudes*"

#### ➤ Overview

- the beatitudes are descriptions (not commands) of the essential characteristics of those who possess the kingdom of heaven

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### The Foundation: "*the beatitudes*"

#### ➤ Overview

- the beatitudes are pronouncements of "blessing" upon those with these characteristics ("*fortunate*", "*well is their world*")

## Sermon on the Mount

### The Foundation: "*the beatitudes*"

#### ➤ Overview

- the beatitudes are both counter-intuitive and radically counter-cultural

## Sermon on the Mount

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### The Foundation: “*the beatitudes*”

➤ Chief Characteristic: “*poor in spirit*”

1. Meaning

- the personal acknowledgment of spiritual bankruptcy before God
- opposite of self-righteousness, self-reliance, self-importance

## Sermon on the Mount

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### The Foundation: “*the beatitudes*”

➤ Chief Characteristic: “*poor in spirit*”

2. Implications

- we do not have the spiritual resources in ourselves to put into practice the Sermon on the Mount
- possessing the kingdom of heaven and living a kingdom lifestyle is all the work of God’s grace