

# HE OPENED HIS MOUTH AND TAUGHT THEM MATTHEW 5:1-2

Text: Matthew 5:1-2

## **Matthew 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Introduction:

In all of the teachings of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount is the longest discourse we have recorded.

There should be no doubt that what is contained in this sermon is as relevant today as it was the day it was first spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ. The relevance of this sermon is seen in the fact that what the Lord taught is repeated in the epistles to the churches of the New Testament.

It is very important that we know what we believe, but it is equally important to know how to behave. In these three chapters of Matthew's gospel there is a good balance of doctrinal and practical teaching. In the text of this great sermon we find teachings that can and should be applied to our lives on a daily basis.

# 1. THE PLACE FROM WHICH THE SERMON WAS DELIVERED

Many times in the Scriptures the Lord is seen teaching and ministering in a mountain. In this particular situation, His being in a mountain is significant for three reasons.

## A. It Depicts the Lord's Humility

### **Matthew 8:20**

<sup>20</sup> And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

While the Scribes and Pharisees sat in Moses' chair in the temple perverting and corrupting the Law of God, the Lord Jesus, who not only gave the truth, but was the Truth, was driven out to the desert, and could find no better place than a mountain from which to deliver His life-changing message.

## B. It Illustrates Man's Possibility

This was not one of the holy mountains, nor was it one of the mountains of Zion, but it was a common, ordinary mountain.

The Lord is illustrating here that there is not just one specified place in which men can approach Him as was the case in the Old Testament. It is our privilege as New

Testament believers to be able to approach the Lord anywhere at any time.

**1 Timothy 2:8**

<sup>8</sup>I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

**C. It Manifests Christ's Royalty**

The very first verse of Matthew's gospel speaks of Christ's royal lineage, "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).

The purpose of Matthew was to introduce Christ to the Jewish people and to present Him as the promised Messiah.

In keeping with the theme of royalty, it is significant that Christ is seen in an elevated place delivering this all important message.

**2. THE POSITION IN WHICH THE SERMON WAS DELIVERED**

**A. Christ Sitting Was Deemed Customary**

In Jesus' day, it was customary for the teacher to sit and the students or congregation to stand.

This was a custom that Jesus followed throughout His ministry (Matthew 13:2, 24:3, 26:55; Mark 9:35; John 8:2).

**Matthew 13:2**

<sup>2</sup> And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

**Matthew 24:3**

<sup>3</sup> And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

**Matthew 26:55**

<sup>55</sup> In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

**Mark 9:35**

<sup>35</sup> And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, *the same* shall be last of all, and servant of all.

**John 8:2**

<sup>2</sup> And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

**B. Christ's Sitting Denoted Authority**

In this sermon, Jesus spoke with authority. In this instance, His sitting was emblematic of the King sitting upon His throne, or the Judge upon the bench.

Without the fear or favor of man, Christ openly set forth the truth, and He did so with liberty and authority.

We can see this from what we read at the close of the Sermon:

**Matthew 7:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: <sup>29</sup> For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

### **3. THE PERSONS TO WHOM THE SERMON WAS DELIVERED – HIS DISCIPLES**

#### **A. Disciple Followers**

It seems quite apparent that once He was set, Christ "opened His mouth and taught" the disciples who had come to Him.

The word disciple means: a learner or pupil

#### **B. Distant Followers**

**Matthew 7:28**

<sup>28</sup> And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

## **4. THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE SERMON WAS DELIVERED**

### **A. The Sermon on the Mount Gives Direction to the Christian life**

In this sermon we are not told to "live like this to be saved", but rather, "live like this because we are saved." This is how Christians ought to live.

Looking to this sermon for direction and following that direction will help to insure the blessings of the Lord upon our lives as His disciples (Matthew 7:24-25).

#### **Matthew 7:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

### **B. The Sermon on the Mount Reveals Deficiencies in the Christian life**

God's intended purpose for every child of His is "perfection" or maturity (Matthew 5:48).

#### **Matthew 5:48**

<sup>48</sup> Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

The word perfect means complete or mature.

As we study the teachings of Christ in this discourse, we are made to see how far short of His intended purpose we fall every day.

### C. The Sermon on the Mount Adds Dynamic to the Christian Life

It was after Christ saw the multitudes and their need that He pulled His disciples aside and taught them these dynamic Biblical principles.

The world today is looking for, and desperately needs, real Christians.

So much of what the lost see today in terms of Christianity is not real.

They see that there is no real difference in the lives of those who claim to be born again believers and those who make no claims at all in regards to religion.

The lost that we come in contact with on a regular basis need to see that Christ has made a dynamic difference in our life. And what better way to demonstrate that difference than to begin living the Sermon on the Mount.

## 5. PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SERMON

As we prepare to hear the words of what was perhaps the greatest sermon ever preached, we must recognize that it is possible to hear and yet go away unchanged.

How can we keep that from happening?

### **James 1:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: <sup>20</sup> For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. <sup>23</sup> For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: <sup>24</sup> For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Three factors must be present to ensure that we receive the full benefit of Christ's teaching in this sermon:

A. An Eagerness to Hear the Word of God –  
“Swift to hear”

The Lord said:

- Take heed what ye hear – Mark 4:24



## **Mark 4:24**

<sup>24</sup> And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

- Take heed how ye hear – Luke 8:18

## **Luke 8:18**

<sup>18</sup> Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

It's not only important that we hear the right words, but that we also hear the right way.

B. A Readiness to Receive the Word of God –  
“receive with meekness the engrafted word”

James gives us some insight into what it means to be ready to receive the Word of God.

- Cast aside all hindrances

## **Matthew 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. <sup>2</sup> And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup> And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup> Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup> And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup> But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. <sup>9</sup> Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

### **Matthew 13:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. <sup>20</sup> But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; <sup>21</sup> Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. <sup>22</sup> He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

- The seed that fell among thorns and was choked out represents the crowded heart that allows sin to crowd out the Word of God.
- A heart that is preoccupied with the presence and practice of sin, will not be open to accepting the truth of the Word, but will instead be prejudiced against it.

- We must Come with an Attitude of Humility

James tells us that we are to receive the Word with meekness.

Arrogance and pride have no place in the heart of one who is eager to hear and ready to receive the Scriptural truth found in the Bible.

Any serious student of the Word will readily admit that the more they learn of Jesus Christ, the more there is to learn. Therefore, in order to press on and understand the things of God better, they must maintain a teachable spirit.

C. A Willingness to Obey the Word of God – “Be ye doers”

May we be willing to take the truth of the Lord’s sermon into our hearts and let it transform our lives by putting its teachings to practice in our lives.