

“THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT”

MATTHEW 5:1-2

Christian Counter-Culture

SERMON ON THE MOUNT, #1

INTRODUCTION —

A. WHAT IS THIS SERMON?

1. ON THE MOUNTAIN OR A PLAIN?
2. ALL ONE SERMON OR A COLLECTION OF SAYINGS?
3. IS IT REALLY COUNTER-CULTURAL?

B. CHRISTIAN COUNTER-CULTURE

1. TROUBLE TODAY? SUPERFICIALITY!
2. KINGDOM TEACHING? SPIRITUALITY!

3. OVERVIEW:
5:3-12.....*Christian Character (the Beatitudes)*
5:13-16....*Relations to world* 6:19-34....*Proper Ambition*
5:17-48....*Righteousness* 7:1-20.....*Christian relationships*
6:1-18.....*Life before God* 7:21-27....*Christian commitment*

C. UNDERSTANDING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. THESE ARE WORDS OF LASTING VALUE
2. HERE IS REAL STUFF FOR A REAL WORLD
3. SHOWS THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH
4. THIS PORTRAYS CHRIST JESUS TO US
5. THIS POINTS US TO THE WAY OF BLESSING

CLOSING EXHORTATIONS...

- HERE IS A SUMMATION OF TRUE SPIRITUALITY
- THE WORLD IS SEEKING AUTHENTICITY
- CHRIST DIED TO MAKE THIS LIFE POSSIBLE IN US

AMEN

JRWS: “For the essential **theme** of the whole Bible from beginning to end is that God’s historical purpose is to call out a people for himself; that this people is a **‘holy’ people**, set apart from the world to belong to him and to obey him; and that its vocation is to be true to its identity, that is, to be ‘holy’ or **‘different’** in all its outlook and behavior.” [p. 17]

JRWS: “...the followers of Jesus are to be different – different from both the nominal church and the secular world, different from both the religious and the irreligious. The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete delineation anywhere in the New Testament of the **Christian counter-culture**. Here is a Christian value-system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition, life-style and network of relationships – all of which are totally at variance with those of the non-Christian world. And this Christian counter-culture is the life of the kingdom of God, a fully human life indeed but lived out under the divine rule.” {page 19]