

**Digging Deeper with Dr. Aaron D. Burgner, Senior Pastor**  
**Studying the Sermon on the Mount**  
**Matthew 5:1-3**

- The Didache, earliest Christian writing on the Sermon on the Mount outside the New Testament. 60-80 AD.
- John Chrysostom (347-407) pastor from Antioch. Believed that divine grace would empower those who sought the righteousness as laid out in the Sermon on the Mount to attain it, at least partially.
- Augustine (354-430) argued that the indwelling Spirit makes this possible.
- Catholic monastics taught that you must completely withdraw from the world and society.

**1. How do we read the Sermon on the Mount?**

- Inaugurated eschatology.
  - The kingdom of God was inaugurated in the Work of Christ but not completed until His return.
  - “already” and the “not yet”
- Chrysostom wrote, “Even before heaven Christ commands us to make earth heaven, and while living on earth to conduct ourselves as citizens there.”
- It is not a list of impossible demands but rather the life of a new creation in Christ.
  - Through the Holy Spirit we pray and seek these things in our life as they are gifts to us made available that we may be called blessed.

**2. How do we understand the Sermon on the Mount?**

- a. Moses and Matthew go hand in hand.
- b. Matthew presents Jesus as the true and better Moses.
  - i. Birth Narrative. Pagan King, killing all the male infants because they were a threat to the kingdom. God intervenes and protects his chosen one who will deliver his people. Those who are seeking the life of the child are now dead and the child arrives on the scene.
  - ii. The beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. The ascent to the mountain to deliver God’s Word.
  - iii. Moses’ prophesy: Deuteronomy 18:15-19 “*The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let us not continue to hear the voice of the Lord our God or see this great fire any longer, so that we will not die!’ <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord said to me, ‘They have spoken well. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup>I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name.*”
  - iv. Matthew shows us Jesus as Messiah and as Savior and deliverer of God’s people.

**3. What I must decide?**

- a. The righteousness described in the Sermon on the Mount is an absolute impossibility for those who remain captive to Satan and are enslaved to Sin.
- b. Will I follow Christ? “*Let my people Go!*”

**4. I am a new creation in Christ.**

- c. Matthew 1:1, *biblos geneleos*, book of origin or book of genesis
- d. Matthew 3:10-12 “*Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with <sup>□</sup> water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove <sup>□</sup> his sandals. He himself will baptize you*

*with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out.”*

- e. Matthew 3:16-17 “*When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him,<sup>14</sup> and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”*
- f. Jeremiah 31:31-34
- g. 2 Corinthians 5:17 “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come*”

**5. The Beatitudes express God’s grace to repentant sinners.**

- a. Righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and pharisees. (5:17-20)
- b. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. (5:6)

**6. Jesus Ascends (vv.1-2)**

- a. Matthew 5:1-2 “*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples come to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:”*
- b. Exodus 19:3

**7. Blessed (v.3)**

- a. Matthew 5:3 “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- b. Blessed does not mean “happy”
- c. Happy is a state of feeling.
- d. Blessed is a position before God. What he thinks of us.

**8. Poor in spirit (v.3)**

- a. Matthew 5:3 “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- b. The bow down or cower, the posture of a beggar.
- c. It means “beggarly in spirit”
- d. Spiritually bankrupt.
- e. Psalm 8, “*God is mindful of Me*”
- f. Luke 18:10-14, Pharisee, and the tax collector.
- g. Revelation 3:17-18 “*So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit<sup>17</sup> you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>For you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,’ and you don’t realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup>I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup>As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup>See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*
- h. Matthew 7:7-8 “*Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door<sup>7a</sup> will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”*