

The GOAT

Sermon on the Mount Series – Part 1

Today, we begin a new series on Jesus' Sermon-on-the-Mount, which was the first of 5 major sermons of Jesus recorded in Matthew's Gospel.

Background

1. The SOTM was given early in Jesus' _____ year of public ministry, often referred to as his year of _____.
2. The SOTM took place on a hill outside _____ in the region of _____. This was his ministry _____, yet the townspeople rejected him.
3. The SOTM was intended for genuine _____ of Jesus, but others were listening in. Strikingly, Jesus didn't _____ his message to his followers in order to appeal to his _____.

Interpreting the Sermon

1. The _____ view (Soren Kierkegaard)
 - Jesus is explaining the kind of person we must _____ in order to enter his Kingdom.
 - This violates 3 of the 5 *solas* of the _____. Entrance into God's Kingdom is entirely by _____ through _____ in _____.
2. The _____ view (Martin Luther)
 - The requirements & expectations are so stringent as to _____ us to cry out for a _____.
 - Luther is right, but something is missing.
3. The _____ view (Thomas Aquinas)
 - The sermon is for those who _____ to a _____ level of Christianity.
 - The problem is that virtually every requirement repeated elsewhere in the _____.
4. The _____ view (John Stott)
 - The sermon is Jesus' comprehensive declaration of how he _____ his followers to live in this fallen world – until his Kingdom is consummated at his _____ coming.
 - (a) This isn't how we _____ Christians, but rather how we live _____ we're Christians.
 - (b) We're actually _____ to live this way – and God graciously provides us with the _____ to do so.
 - (c) This is for _____ Christians.

The Overarching Message of the Sermon

- What Jesus insists for his followers is that we live _____ - _____.
- Dictionary definition: That we live a life _____ to, or at _____ with, the prevailing social norm.
- This is what God wanted & expected of the _____ (Lev 18:1-4), but they kept adopting the _____ of the people around them (Ps 106:35).
- A simple test: Ask a neighbor or co-worker if he/she finds you _____ from the average person.
- In today's post-Christian culture, Christ's followers really ought to _____.
- The SOTM will tell us _____; we must supply the _____.

Lunchtime Discussion Questions

1. How is our family different from the typical family in Shelby County?
2. How else might Jesus be calling us to be different?

Small Group Questions

Sign-up for this resource by emailing Pastor Dan at dhawn@fbcharlan.org. You'll receive the questions no later than the Saturday preceding the sermon, enabling you to listen to the sermon with the discussion questions in mind. You can always add your own questions as well.

Church History

- Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) – a Danish philosopher & theologian
- Martin Luther (1483-1546) – a German monk who sparked the Protestant Reformation
- Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) – an Italian priest who had enormous influence on Western thought
- Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981) – a Welsh preacher and fierce critic of liberal Christianity
- John Stott (1921-2011) – an English Anglican cleric and one of the most influential evangelical theologians of the past century