

### 3. The Hero of the Sermon on the Mount

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. You’re either are a Christian or you’re becoming a Christian to be “*poor in spirit*”, because nobody else is poor in spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. To mourn means we grieve over sin and repent.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Means you humbly become completely dependent upon God.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. If you’re a Christian or you’re becoming a Christian, and though the Sermon convicts you deeply, you won’t dismiss it as stupid. *You’ll want it. You hunger and thirst for it.*

**Paul wrote:** “I want to be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own based on my own moral efforts, but a righteousness that comes from God through faith in Christ.” Philippians 3:9

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. Romans 3:20

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemaker for they will be called sons of God.

And up until you get to the Beatitudes in the scriptures, and throughout the whole of the OT, the word *blessed* meant to be favored, and then you get to the Beatitudes and you see all this blessing. But think about this, who envies *the poor in spirit*, who envies those *who mourn, the meek, those who are hungering and thirsting ... no one right?* Nobody envies the meek. **THAT IS UNTIL** you realize who the Beatitudes are actually speaking to.

Because **before** the Beatitudes describe what you and me can be they first describe **who Jesus was** when he came to us.



Sierra Community Church  
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Dan Wilvers Part 1

**Why the Sermon on the Mount is so tough to live out.**

**Matthew 5:1-12  
The Beatitudes**

<sup>1</sup> Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## 1. What Makes The Sermon On The Mount Both Amazing And Difficult.

“**You are the salt of the earth.** But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 “**You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, **let your light shine before others,** that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

- Jesus talks about ***our relationship to the world around us.***

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Matthew 5:21,22

- Jesus speaks to ***our relationship with others.***

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27,28

- Jesus speaks to ***our sexual integrity.***

“Don’t swear at all, but let your yes be yes and your no be no.” Matthew 5:37

- Jesus speaks to ***the integrity of our speech.***

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ..43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ... Matthew 5:39,40,43,44

- Jesus speaks to how ***we should respond to hostility.***

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. Matthew 6:1,2

- Jesus speaks to the ***core of our motives***

“Don’t pray to be seen, but go into your room, shut the door, and pray.” Matthew 6:6

- Jesus speaks to the ***condition of our heart’s priority to God.***

“Don’t store up treasures on earth, ...21 but where your treasure is, there is your heart.” Matthew 6:19,21

- Jesus speaks to the ***condition of our heart’s priority to wealth.***

Don’t worry. Don’t be anxious. Don’t be worried about what you will eat and what you will drink and what you will wear. Matthew 6:25

- Jesus speaks to ***our attitudes towards circumstances.***

Chapter 7:1“Judge not, lest ye be judged.”

- Jesus speaks to ***our attitudes towards people who are wrong.***

## 2. The Terrifying Reality of the Sermon on the Mount

**The terror-** *the Sermon on the Mount is so clear, so revealing, and it spells things out by looking at the motives as well, nobody can escape. It condemns you and exposes you.*

One of the big mistakes we make when we look into the Sermon on the Mount ... is ***we fail to recognize*** that these teachings from Jesus ***are descriptions of patterns of life*** of the way they ought to be in life.

**Jesus wants the message to scare us.**

We miss the idea that the Sermon on the Mount is telling us that before we can live like that, before we can measure up to those standards, we have to be changed.