

The Sermon on the Mount

Learning to Follow Jesus

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“There is no doubt about it. We all want to be happy.”

- St. Augustine of Hippo, *De Moribus Ecclesiae Catholicae*

Preparing for the Kingdom

Jesus’ teaching summed up in one sentence: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
(Matt. 4:17)

The Sermon on the Mount is a sermon about *repentance*, *conversion*, and *the Kingdom*

Christ as exemplar: The Sermon on the Mount as a portrait of Jesus

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt. 11:29)

A Morality of Happiness

Beatitude: “blessed are those...”

μακάριος (*makarios*) = “blessed,” “happy”

“The purpose of the Sermon is to show us what the Holy Spirit wishes to accomplish in our lives here and now through his grace, if we respond to Him with the Yes of faith, with the eagerness of hope, and with the availability of love.”

- Servais Pinckaers, OP, *The Pursuit of Happiness—God’s Way*

Psalm 1:1-2

NRSVue

Happy (אַשְׁרָיִם) are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

KJV

Blessed (אַשְׁרָיִם) is the man
that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners,
nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the Lord;
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

The beatitudes are *promises*

“Blessed” by whom?

The *passivum divinum* (divine passive case):

“they shall be satisfied” = God will satisfy them

The beatitudes describe the Kingdom of Heaven

It is a kingdom of *consolation, justice, mercy, and peace*. It will consist in the *vision of God*.