

Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

A Discipleship Journey



Sermon on the Mount

Week 1

Introduction to Sermon on the Mount

Opening Prayer:

Today, and all days
embrace us in a love that knows no end.

Today, and all days
fill us with a power that overcomes.

Today, and all days
encourage us with a word that nourishes.

Today, and all days
inspire us with a hope that sustains.

Today, and all days
comfort us with a peace that endures.

Today, and all days
bring wholeness of body, mind, and spirit

Today, and all days ...

Reflection

Discipleship is the most basic call of the Gospel. We receive this call at our Baptism and give our own “yes” at our Confirmation. Jesus chooses *us* to follow Him and walk in His footprints. If we understand what this basic calling is all about and, if we can answer the call in the way that Jesus wants us to, we can change the world. Jesus said so. The challenge is: can we answer that call? You see, discipleship isn’t about who *I* want to be. No, discipleship is about who *Jesus* wants me to be.

So how do we know who Jesus wants us to be? Jesus himself tells us:

Not everyone who calls Me Lord, Lord, will get into the kingdom of heaven, only he who does what My Father in heaven wants. (Matthew 7:21)

In other words, Jesus wants us to do God’s will so that we will be a part of His Kingdom. How do we know the will of the Father? The Sermon on the Mount tells us:

Anyone who listens and acts on what I say is like a man who had the sense to build his house on a rock. The rain poured down, the torrents came, the winds blew, and they dashed against that house. But it didn’t go down, because its foundation was on the rock. (Matthew 7:24 – 25)

In this verse, appearing at the end of the Sermon, Jesus states that everyone who LISTENS and ACTS on what He has just said in the previous three chapters (i.e., the Sermon on the Mount) is fully grounded in the life of a disciple.

The Sermon on the Mount, then, provides a framework within which a disciple lives his or her life. While the life of a disciple is not necessarily easy, the Sermon on the Mount gives us the path to live out our calling:

- ❖ When we live by the Sermon, our struggle in responding to difficulties and challenges becomes easier because the Sermon guides us.
- ❖ Approaching important life decisions becomes easier because the Sermon guides us.
- ❖ When caught in the tension between our culture and our faith, the Sermon guides us.

Let’s explore the Sermon on the Mount together.

Reflection Question: What do I hope to learn as we explore the Sermon on the Mount?

Closing Prayer

Speak to Jesus about what is on your heart, then rest in silence for a few moments listening for His response.