

A fluffy white lamb stands in a lush green field, looking towards the left. The lamb's wool is thick and soft, and its legs are white. The background is a soft-focus green field.

# The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 to 7)

1. Introduction

# The Sermon on the Mount

(Matthew 5 to 7)

**What is this?**

Impossible idealism?

An exam we are meant to fail?

A beautiful piece of writing?

A complete mystery?





***The Sermon on the Mount** is the true measure of a real Christian.*  
- John Wesley



*Jesus knows only one possibility: simple surrender and obedience – not interpreting or applying **the Sermon on the Mount** but doing and obeying it. That is the only way to hear His words. He does not mean for us to discuss it as an ideal. He really means for us to get on with it.*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

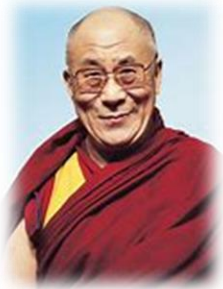
***The Sermon on the Mount** is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is having His way with us.*

- Oswald Chambers



*Christ's **Sermon on the Mount** fills me with bliss even today.  
Its sweet verses have even today the power to quench my agony of soul.*

*- Mahatma Gandhi*

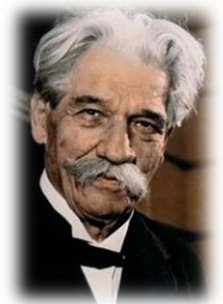


*Jesus Christ's teachings, such as those found in **the Sermon on the Mount**, speak directly to the practice of compassion, which is at the heart of every religion.*

*- The Dalai Lama*

***The Sermon on the Mount** is a psychological as well as a religious masterpiece. It confronts us with the paradoxes of human nature and the path to wholeness.*

*- Carl Jung (Psychiatrist psychotherapist, psychologist and evolutionary theorist)*

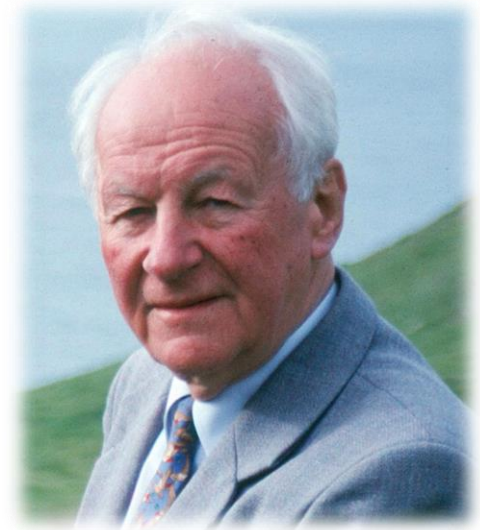


*Reverence for life, inspired by **the Sermon on the Mount**, calls us to active love toward all living things.*

*- Albert Schweitzer (theologian, organist, musicologist, writer, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician)*

***The Sermon on the Mount** is probably the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly, **it is the least obeyed.***

- John R.W. Stott



# The gospel of Matthew - how is it different?

So, is it still relevant for us?

## The audience

Matthew is primarily addressed to Jewish readers.

## The use of the Old Testament

There are more Old Testament quotations in Matthew than in the other three gospels combined.

## The references to the Kingdom

Only Matthew uses the phrase “the Kingdom of Heaven” and he refers to the Kingdom more than other gospel writers.

**His emphasis is to present the Lord Jesus as its King.**

## The teaching passages

**Matthew includes more teaching passages than Mark and Luke.**

The teaching in John’s gospel is distinctly different from the other three gospels.

## Matthew includes more teaching passages than Mark and Luke.

- ✓ Matthew 5-7 “**The sermon on the mount**”
- ✓ Matthew 10 When sending out the twelve
- ✓ Matthew 13 The parables of the Kingdom
- ✓ Matthew 18 Greatness in the Kingdom and forgiveness
- ✓ Matthew 24-25 “The Olivet discourse” – about the end times

# The parallel passage in Luke's gospel...

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
<b>“The sermon on the mount”</b>				
Setting of the sermon	Mt 5:1-2		Lk 6:17-19	
Blessings/woes about inheriting the kingdom	Mt 5:3-12		Lk 6:20-26	
Responsibility while awaiting the kingdom	Mt 5:13-16			
Law, righteousness and the kingdom	Mt 5:17-20			
Six contrasts in interpreting the law	Mt 5:21-48		Lk 6:27-30,32-36	
Avoid three hypocritical “acts of righteousness”	Mt 6:1-18			
Prohibitions against avarice, harsh judgment and unwise exposure of sacred things	Mt 6:19-7:6		Lk 6:37-42	
Application and conclusion	Mt 7:7-27		Lk 6:31	
Reaction of the crowds	Mt 7:28-8:1			



## The setting...

And He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and **healing every disease and every affliction among the people.**

So His fame spread throughout all **Syria**, and they brought Him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, **and He healed them.**

(Matthew 4:23-24)



# The setting...

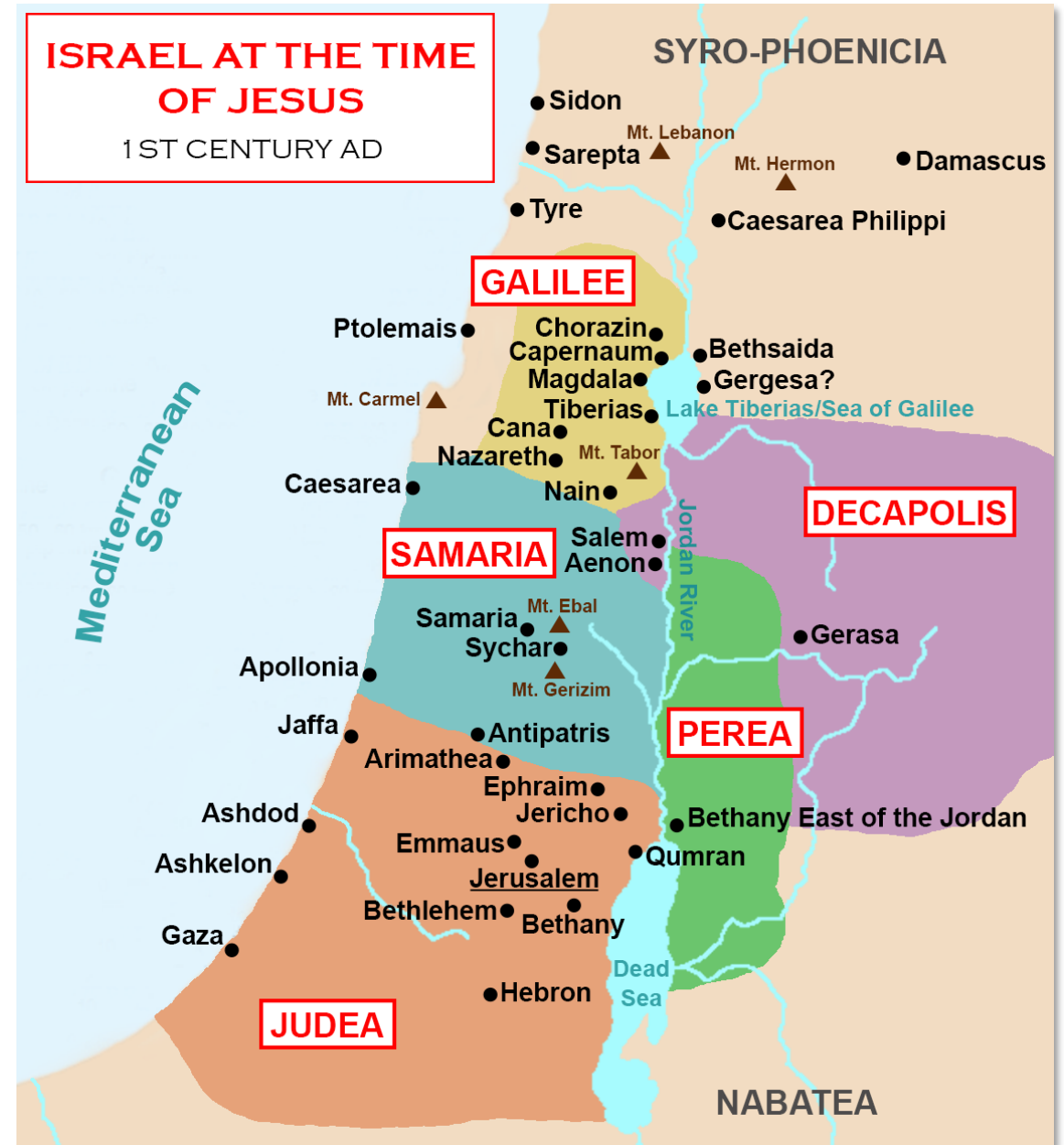
And **great crowds followed Him** from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

(Matthew 4:25)

Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

**And He opened His mouth and taught them...**

(Matthew 5:1-2)



**The Son  
of God**

**He  
taught  
them**

Openly, clearly,  
lovingly, plainly

Those who had  
begun to follow Him

**The Son  
of God**

**He**

**Openly, clearly,  
lovingly, plainly**

**teaches**

**us**

**We who have begun  
to follow Him**



*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*  
(Matthew 5:3)

# The scribes and Pharisees

They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

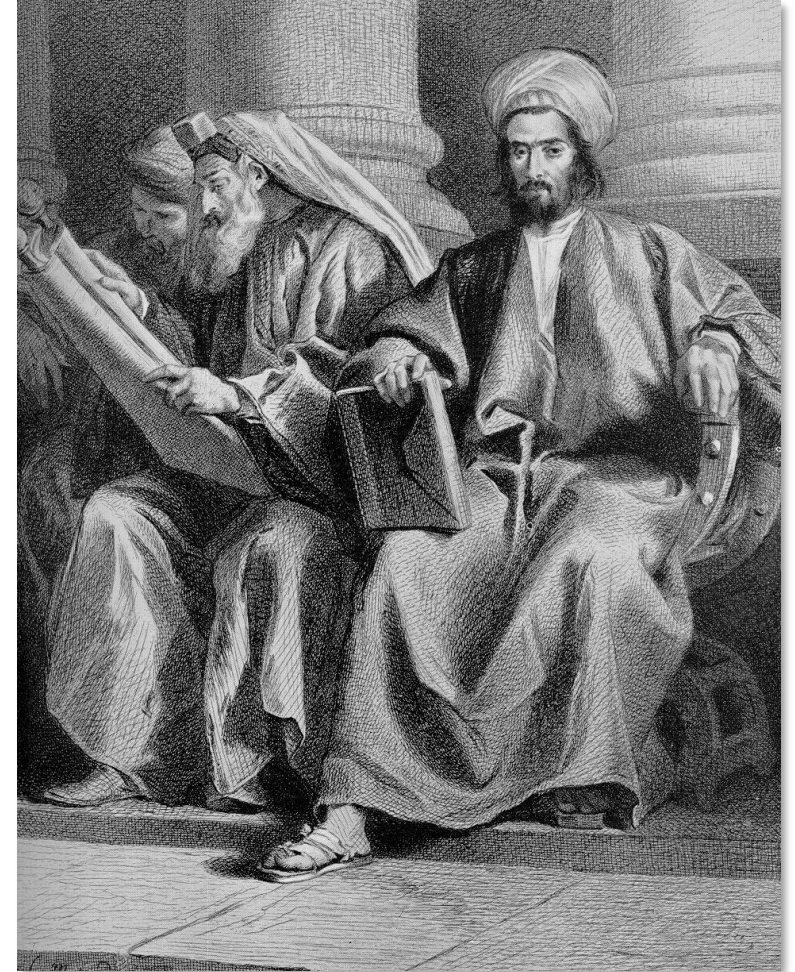
(Matthew 23:4)



# The scribes and Pharisees

Woe to you lawyers!  
For you have taken away the key of knowledge.  
You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered  
those who were entering.

(Luke 11:52)



# Disciples of Jesus

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*  
(Matthew 5:3)

*“But woe to you who are rich,  
For you have received your consolation.”*  
(Luke 6:24)



# Disciples of Jesus

*“Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.”*

(Matthew 5:4)

*“Woe to you who laugh now,  
For you shall mourn and weep.”*

(Luke 6:25)

# Disciples of Jesus

*“**Blessed** are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.”*

(Matthew 5:5)

# Disciples of Jesus

*“**Blessed** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.”*

(Matthew 5:6)

*“Woe to you who are full now,  
For you shall be hungry.”*

(Luke 6:25)

# Disciples of Jesus

Can you see yourself here?

“Blessed are **the poor in spirit**,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are **those who mourn**,  
for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are **the meek**,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**,  
for they shall be satisfied.”

(Matthew 5:3-6)



*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*