

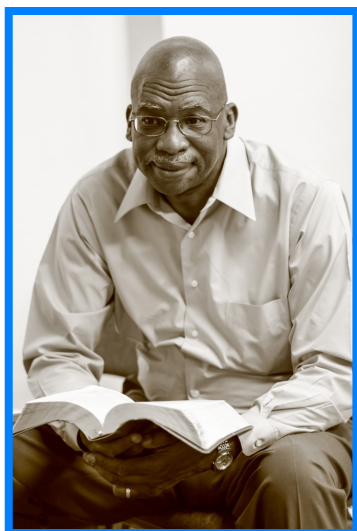
# Sermon on the Mount

*A Bible Study in  
Matthew Chapters 5-7*



Prayer, Praise & Proclamation  
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

## A Note From Pastor Kermit



Like the other gospels, Matthew isn't a chronological diary of Jesus' life and ministry. It's witness to His mission and message here on Earth. Therefore, events and teachings are arranged with the intent of bearing witness to God's good news brought by His son.

This gospel emphasizes the kingdom of heaven, with Jesus as its Messiah King. With regard to Jewish sensitivity to using the name of God, Matthew refers to the Kingdom only five times as the Kingdom of God but 32 times as the Kingdom of heaven.

May the Lord bless us collectively as we continue to study and apply God's Word!

**Get Engaged:** Take notes, participate, and commit to memorizing the verse of the week.

**Stay Prayerful:** Pray that God will open up our understanding to His Word!

**Invite a Friend:** We have been commissioned to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others!

### Insight on the Book of Matthew:

Although the first Gospel is anonymous, the early church fathers were unanimous in holding that Matthew, one of the 12 apostles, was its author.

However, the results of modern critical studies -- in particular those that stress Matthew's alleged dependence on Mark for a substantial part of his Gospel -- have caused some Biblical scholars to abandon Matthean authorship.

Why, they ask, would Matthew, an eyewitness to the events of our Lord's life, depend so heavily on Mark's account? The best answer seems to be that he agreed with it and wanted to show that the apostolic testimony to Christ was not divided.

Matthew, whose name means "gift of the Lord," was a tax collector who left his work to follow Jesus (9:9-13). In Mark and Luke he is called by his other name, Levi.

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### **Memory Verse:**

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”  
Matthew 7:21 NKJV

## LESSON 1

### **The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)**

Blessings in the kingdom of heaven are reflected in radically counter-cultural lives today.

#### **Matthew 5:1-2 (The New Moses)**

1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

#### **Discussion Question One:**

*What are some characteristics of a teacher that makes you want to listen?*

#### **Key Doctrine:**

**In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

#### **Matthew 5:3-12 (The New Blessings)**

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
For they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful,  
For they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#### **Discussion Questions Two- Four:**

*How are you tempted to make it on your own in certain areas of need rather than seeking God's help and provision?*

*Review the eight characteristics in the Beatitudes, which one do you believe to be the most needed in our world today?*





## LESSON 2

### **Salt, Light & Fruit (Matthew 5:13-16; 7:15-20)**

Our actions reveal allegiance either to our own glory or to the glory of God.

#### **Matthew 5:13-16 (New Expectations)**

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

#### **Discussion Question One & Two:**

*How can you apply Jesus’ teachings on salt to the life of the follower of Christ?*

*How would you describe the spiritual “flavor” of your life?*

*What other analogies could be used to explain the truth Jesus taught in this passage?*

#### **Matthew 7:15-20 (Good Versus Bad)**

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

17 “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 “Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

#### **Discussion Questions Three & Four:**

*What’s the responsibility of believers when they observe others producing fruit contrary to what the Bible expects of Christians?*

*When it comes to discerning false teachers, which would you deem most valuable as your safeguard:*

- (1) studying false religions to become acquainted with their teachings
  - or
- (2) studying the words of Jesus so that you can judge what others say by His words?



## LESSON 3

### **Fulfilling The Law (Matthew 5:17-22, 43-48)**

God's Word governs the heart of His people.

#### **Matthew 5:17-20 (Greatness in the kingdom)**

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Discussion Question One - Four**

*Based on these words of Jesus, how would you describe His view of scripture?*

*Why is it important to believe in the inspiration of the scriptures?*

*What's wrong with the opinion that salvation is achieved and maintained by keeping God's law?*

*How does self-righteousness differ from the righteousness God desires to see in the lives of His people?*

#### **Matthew 5:21-22 (Neighbors in the Kingdom)**

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

#### **Discussion Question Five**

*In what way is all behavior, good or bad, ultimately a heart issue?*

#### **Matthew 5:43-48 (Enemies of the Kingdom)**

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.'

44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax



collectors do the same?

47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"

48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

**Discussion Question Six - Eight**

*How do you relate to a person who holds different political, philosophical, or religious views from yours?*

*How do you maintain a warm relationship with a fellow believer with whom you differ?*

*How can the truths of this lesson help our church be more welcoming?*

**Conclusion:**

God's Word governs the heart of His people. As followers of Christ, we're called to live to a higher standard. Not only are we called to love other believers in Jesus; we're also called to love all, even our enemies.

**Memory verse:**

*"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."*

*Matthew 5:17 NKJV*

***"That old law about an 'eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind.  
The time is always right to do the right thing.  
~ Martin Luther King***

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## LESSON 4

### How To Give, Fast, & Pray (Matthew 6:1-18)

Spiritual disciplines seek a greater reward than this world can offer.

#### Matthew 6:1-4 (Giving for the Right Reward)

1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

3 "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

#### Discussion Question One

*What is it that the Lord wants us to understand and apply to our lives in these verses today?*

#### Matthew 6:5-8 (Praying with Sincerity)

5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

#### Discussion Question Two

*Do you find yourself using the same words or phrases in your prayers? How could you freshen up your prayers by limiting the use of tired, worn out phrases?*

#### Matthew 6:9-18 (A Model to Follow)

9 "In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Discussion Question Three - Four**

*What commitments are evident in the way God is addressed in these verses?*

*How can a model prayer be helpful? What are the dangers?*

**Matthew 6:6-18 (Fasting with Joy)**

16 “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

17 “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

18 “so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

**Discussion Question Five**

*How can a person fast in practical ways without making it known?*

**Conclusion:**

Spiritual disciplines seek a greater reward than this world can offer. When we pray, we're to approach God with reverence and humility. We should view prayer as a conversation with the holy God for the purpose of understanding His heart and will.

**Memory Verse:**

““Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1 NKJV

***“It’s not the body’s posture, but the hearts attitude that counts when we pray”  
~ Billy Graham***

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## LESSON 5

### **Earthly & Eternal Concerns (Matthew 6:19-34)**

Kingdom-minded people can live in freedom and peace.

#### **Matthew 6:19-21 (Treasures on Earth and in Heaven)**

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20 “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

#### **Discussion Question One**

*If people looked at your life to identify where your treasures are collected, what would they say? Why?*

#### **Matthew 6:22-23 (The Good eye and The Bad Eye)**

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

23 “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

#### **Discussion Question Two - Three**

*What are some of the things you concern yourself with on a daily basis?*

*How do these things fill your life with either light or darkness?*

#### **Matthew 6:24-34 (Two Masters & Don't Worry)**

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 “Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 “and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 “Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

- 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
- 32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
- 33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- 34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

**Discussion Question Four - Five**

*What are some negative consequences of allowing worry to rule in our lives?*

*What might it look like to seek God's kingdom and righteousness in our daily lives?*

**Conclusion:**

Kingdom-minded people can live in freedom and peace. When our focus is on serving Christ in righteousness, then the things of this world have no power over us. We are satisfied perfectly in our relationship with our Heavenly Father who provides everything we need in His love for us.

**Memory Verse:**

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."  
Matthew 6:33 NKJV

***"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength"**  
Corrie Ten Boom*

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## LESSON 6

### **Two Gates, Roads, & Foundations (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-29)**

Every person faces a choice about his or her life now and forever.

#### **Matthew 7:13-14 (Narrow vs. Wide)**

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

#### **Discussion Question One**

*How might Jesus’ words influence the way we view our family members, friends, and coworkers?*

#### **Matthew 7:21-23 (Known vs. Unknown)**

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

#### **Discussion Question Two**

*How can you check your motives to be sure your good deeds are done for your love for the Lord?*

#### **Matthew 7:24-29 (Rock vs. Sand)**

24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

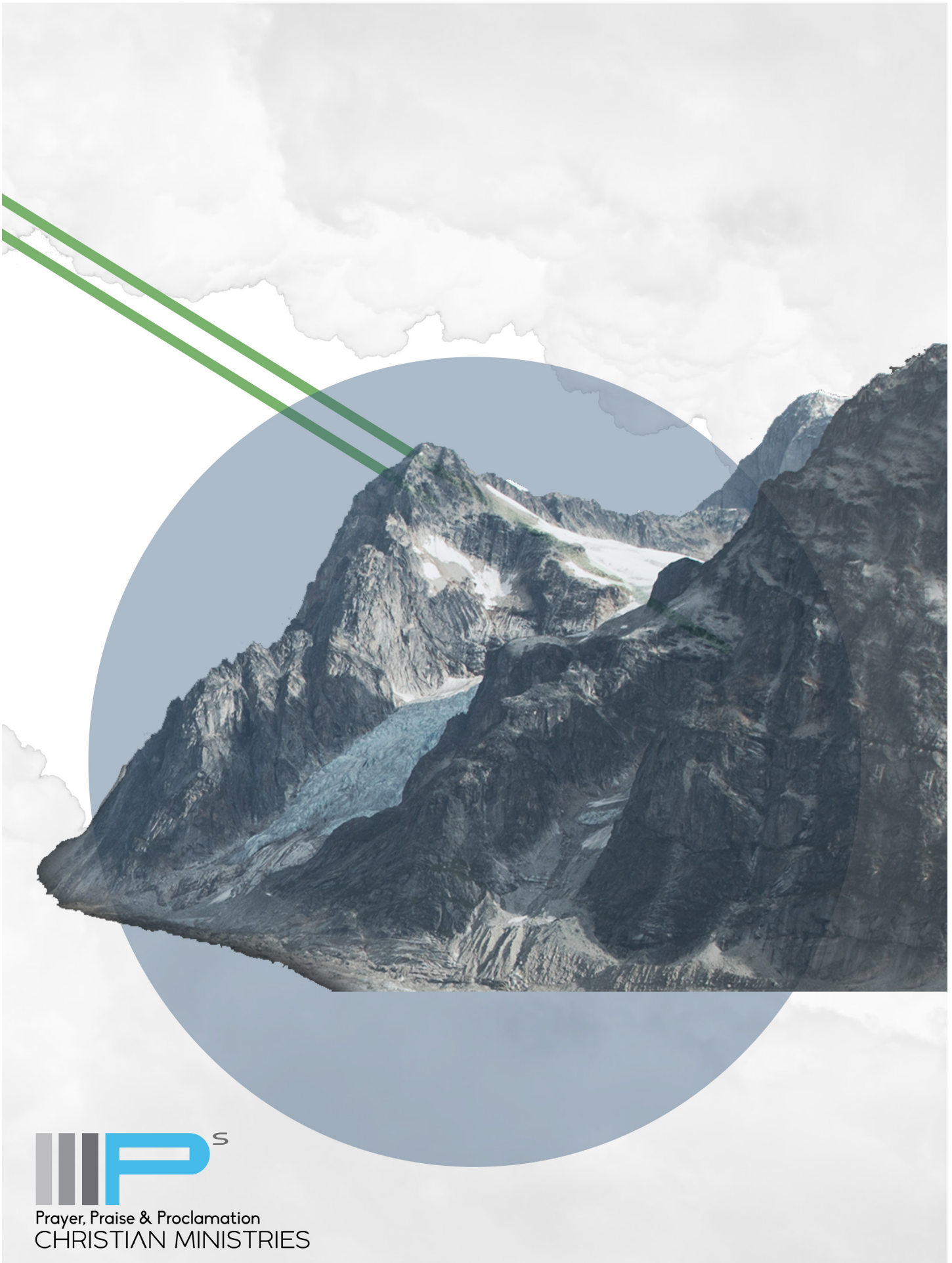
#### **Discussion Question Three - Four**

*How do the images that Jesus used help you grasp His message?*

*How has studying the Sermon on the Mount given you a new perspective on daily life as a citizen of the Kingdom of God?*







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