

The Beatitudes
“Sitting at Jesus’ Feet”
The Week of April 7, 2024
Matthew 5:1-2

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Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them...

Background...

Matthew 4:12-17

Jesus Begins His Public Ministry

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:1-2) ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- The first chapters of the Gospel of Matthew tell us about the birth, baptism, and temptation of Jesus. Now Jesus begins His public ministry and Matthew quotes the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. What does this quote tell us about Jesus and His ministry (15-16)?

- What is Jesus’ message, and what does it mean (17)?

Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

- Jesus calls Simon Peter & Andrew as His first disciples. What command and promise does He make to them (19)? What does this mean? How did they respond (20)? How did James and John respond to a similar call (22)? Read **Matthew 13:47-50** for more insight into the meaning of Jesus’ command and promise.

- Where were you when Jesus called you?

Matthew 4:23-25***Jesus' Fame Spreads***

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. ²⁴So 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. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

- What kind of things did Jesus do in His early ministry in Galilee (23-24)? Why were these things attractive to “great crowds” (25)?

- What is one thing you personally find compelling about Jesus these days?

Matthew 5:1-2***Jesus Prepares to Teach***

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them...

- Who are “the crowds” (1)?

- These two verses tell us important details about Jesus. What exactly does Jesus “see” when He looks at these crowds (1)? Read **Matthew 9:36** and **Matthew 23:37** for more insight.

- Why might it be significant that Jesus “went up on the mountain” (1)? Read **Exodus 19:20** for more insight.

- Why is it significant that Jesus “sat down” to teach (2)? Read **Psalms 110:1** for more insight.

- Pray together in light of this week’s passage. Ask the Lord for grace for our church to hear and receive the promises of God in His Word.