

**Podcast Episode Notes**  
**Season 9 Episode 1 – The Best Sermon Ever**

St. Augustine is the one who gave the name “Sermon on the Mount” to the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5-7. It’s the closest account we have from Jesus on what He wants His disciples to be and do. The whole sermon contrasts how followers of Jesus live, act and think in comparison to the world around them. In the midst of all of the noise right now, what do we need to be focused on? Let’s get back to how Jesus wants us to live.

**Matthew 5:1-12**

The Sermon on the Mount pictures what life, relationships and community look like when they come under the gracious Lordship of Jesus – as citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus emphasized that His people were to be different from others. They were to take their cues from Him, and not the world’s system around them. In Matthew 6:8, Jesus says, will talking about prayer: “Do not be like them.” The quality of character of His disciples are to be “light”, admired by the world.

According to John Stott, the Sermon on the Mount is a “Christian value system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition, lifestyle, and network of relationships – all of which are totally at odds with those of the non-Christian world. And, this Christian counter-culture is the life of the Kingdom of God, a fully human life indeed but lived out under divine rule.”

As R.T. Kendall says, “It showing on the Christian life is to be lived, made possible only by the Holy Spirit...the Holy Spirit is our ‘Helper’ and He enables us to manifest a level of holy living that the world rarely sees but longs to see...the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount is to demonstrate the kind of teaching, and the kind of living with regard to character and conduct, that should govern the people of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**The Kingdom of Heaven – Matthew 5:3**

Throughout the New Testament it is referred to as the “Kingdom of God”, except in Matthew, where it is called the “Kingdom of Heaven”. Why?

- a. YHWH (Yahweh)
  - b. Means The Self-Existing One; He Who Is
  - c. This is God’s proper name (like James or John) built out of the word for “I AM”, reminding us that God absolutely is.
  - d. Many Hebrews viewed this as too sacred a name to utter aloud, so over time started to substitute “Adonai” (My Lord) in its place, especially when speaking.
- 2) Kingdom of Heaven
- a. Jesus mentions “Kingdom of Heaven” six times in the Sermon on the Mount.
  - b. The Kingdom is the realm in which Jesus rules and reigns.
- 3) Think of the Lord’s prayer: “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”. *As in Heaven, so on Earth.*

R.T. Kendall defines the Kingdom like this: “If I may come to the heart of the matter and give the definition that, in my opinion, best suits Jesus’ teaching on the Sermon on the Mount, it is this: *the rule (or leadership) of the un-grieved Spirit in the believer...*”

He continues, “The Holy Spirit is a person – a very sensitive person – who can be grieved (Eph. 4:30). When we grieve the Spirit, we forfeit His conscious presence. The Holy Spirit will never leave us (John 14:16), but only when He is un-grieved are we promised His conscious presence. This definition of the Kingdom, therefore presupposes the conscious and enabling presence of God – an equally valid definition of the Kingdom. It is the realm of the unhindered Spirit. It is what it is like when the Holy Spirit is at home in us – like being poor in Spirit, meek, pure in heart, merciful or persecuted because of Christ. To inherit the Kingdom of Heaven is therefore to enjoy the blessing and conscious indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.”

When we consider this, the reality is that Jesus desires for His presence, life, values, attitudes, words and actions be expressed through our lives – both within our Christian community and before a watching world. This can be done as we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

What He build within us, bleeds through us to touch the lives of those around us.

Learn more about this topic in Chapter 10 of *A Discipleship Journey: A Proven and Practical Tool for Making Disciples* which is Lionshare’s primary discipleship resource. It’s available at [Lionshare.org/store](https://Lionshare.org/store). To learn more about our ministry, go to [Lionshare.org](https://Lionshare.org) to discover our discipleship tools for adults and kids. Check out the podcasts page to find episode notes.

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