



Sermon on the Mount – SF 203

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. It is the nearest thing to a manifesto that he ever uttered, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and to do...The Sermon on the Mount...describes what human life and human community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God.

The followers of Jesus are to be different – different from both the compromised church and the secular world. The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete delineation anywhere in the New Testament of the Christian counterculture. This is life in the kingdom, a fully human life lived out under God's rule.

Some people have read this Sermon and have concluded that no one can really live out the principles and commands that are written here...At the opposite extreme are those people who glibly claim to "live by the Sermon on the Mount." When you hear someone say that, it's probably best to assume that they have never really read the Sermon!

The truth of how we are to read the Sermon is that both extremes are wrong. Jesus held up these standards as principles of kingdom living, but he also realized that much more than mere human effort was required to reach these standards. The goals of the Sermon are attainable but only by those who have experienced the new birth and who have access to the Holy Spirit's enabling power.

(Excerpts from "Reading The Sermon on the Mount with John Stott" with Douglas Connelly, pp 11-13)

Themes we will explore:

- ✓ Developing *Spiritual Character* (5:1-6)
- ✓ A Christian's *Influence* (5:7-16)
- ✓ A Christian's *Righteousness* (5:17-30)
- ✓ *Marriage, Truthfulness, Revenge and Love* (5:31-48)
- ✓ A Christian's *Religion* (6:1-18)
- ✓ A Christian's *Ambition* (6:19-34)
- ✓ A Christian's *Relationships* (7:1-12)
- ✓ A Christian's *Commitment* (7:13-29)

Enter into an informal discussion based on Douglas Connelly's book "Reading The Sermon on the Mount with John Stott."

Facilitators: Pastor Nick Nagy, Pastor Tim Van Loh, and Mrs. Lily Telloyan

Room: 202 | Cost: \$10 (Book Cost)