

## A Word From Above And Beyond For Below

Matthew 5.1-2

### Overview

#### **A Word from Above**

- Previous prophets would say “thus says the Lord” where Jesus speaks directly to the disciples as if He were the Lord
  - We find in other places where Jesus says “truly, truly I say” (not the Lord says)
  - He speaks as one who has authority greater even than the scribes (Matt. 7.28-29)
- One of the author’s intentions is to present Jesus as the Greater Moses, the answer to the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18.15-18 where Moses says “one like me” will come, “listen to him”
  - Moses’ ministry was to lead Gods people out of slavery, give them the Law and lead them into the Land of Promise
  - Matthew as a whole, but in particular, this Sermon and its interlude present this fact:
    - Jesus goes up on a mountain as Moses did (note “the” mountain)
    - Jesus gives the Law as Moses did, only He speaks it to them since He is the Lord Himself
    - Where before only Moses could climb the mountain and meet with God Jesus brings His disciples with Him up the mountain (along with the crowds that were looking in)
    - Note the similarities and the prophecies in Exodus 19.1-6

#### **A Word from Beyond**

- Since Jesus comes from Heaven and He is inaugurating the Kingdom of Heaven, we can see that this Sermon is the words FROM that heavenly city that we will be going as the Israelites were going to the Land of Promise
- The crowds were present, but looking in...the antecedent of “them” in vs. 2 is the Disciples...Jesus is speaking to the Disciples about the kind of people they are to be (and will be)
  - This word is, then, a word from beyond...from the Heavenly City for which we are bound
  - Jesus died and rose again to enable us to enter that city and picture it while we are here

#### **A Word for Below**

- Jesus speaks these things to His disciples in order to have them obey them now
- Just as the Israelites were not to wait to obey the Law until they entered Canaan, so we don’t have the luxury of waiting to obey the Sermon on the Mount
  - The Gospel enables us to perform the Sermon
- The disciples came and sat at the feet of Jesus and devoted themselves to His teaching so they would know how to picture the city to come

## Questions

**Discussion Starter:** Would you agree that all of us pursue a kind of Kingdom of Heaven? A place where all the wrongs have been made right.

1. Read Matthew 4.17-25: What seems to be drawing the crowds? What is the topic of Jesus teaching? Who is the primary audience of the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Read Exodus 19.1-6, Deut. 18.15-18, Matthew 5.1-2: What similarities do you see between the ministry of Moses and the ministry of Jesus in terms of big picture things? How do these verses remind us of the giving of the Law in the 1T? How are they dissimilar? Why are these things important?
3. How can we see both in this passage and in other New Testament passages that Jesus is a Word from God?
4. How can we see in this passage that this sermon is a Word from beyond (i.e. describing the New Covenant Community)?
5. How can we know that this passage is still meant to be obeyed for below?
6. If the Word is from God, how does that inform our obedience to the words?
7. If the Word is from Beyond, how does it encourage you to consider this community?
8. The disciples followed Jesus up the mountain, sat at his feet and devoted themselves to listening to the sermon alongside one another. The Sermon also will frequently assume community involvement. How can we better prioritize meeting with other disciples and coming together and sitting at the feet of Jesus' teaching?

**Accountability Question:** *In what ways are you not treating Christ's words as God's Words and choosing what you want to believe?*

Or

*In what ways are you or are you not prioritizing sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning from Him with other disciples?*