Sermon Summary

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is a sermon all about the Kingdom of God – Matthew calls this “The Kingdom of Heaven”. In this opening section (sometimes called “The Beatitudes”) we see Jesus laying down the “norms” of the Kingdom; those things that must characterise all who have truly entered that Kingdom.

Personal Application

Q If God rules over everything, what exactly is the Kingdom of Heaven/God?

Q Read through v1-12. Can you describe what is being described and what is being promised in each of the 8 statements in v3-10:

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Q What does it mean to be “blessed”?

Q How do we see the “now” and the “not yet” of God’s Kingdom in these verses?

Q How do you think we today, as disciples of Christ, are supposed to apply these verses to ourselves? Which ones particularly challenge you? Why should we not be discouraged when we fall short (Philippians 1:6)?
Sermon Summary

Having established the “norms” of God’s Kingdom – those things that should characterise all of those who have entered it – Jesus now speaks about the impact that living this way will have on the world around us.

Personal Application

Q How has Christianity positively shaped the world we live in? How would you respond to the accusation that much evil has also been done under the banner of Christianity?

Q Read v13. How does Jesus describe His disciples? What was salt used for in the ancient world? What does it look like for disciples to be “salty”?

Q Why is this kind of saltiness essential? (see 13b)

Q Read v14-16. In what way are Christians to be like light? What is the light that Jesus is speaking of?

Q What will make people praise God (rather than us) when they see our good deeds?

Q What are some of the simplest ways that we can be more like salt and light today?