



The life of heaven – the life of the World where God is already King – is to become the life of the World, transforming the present Earth into the place of beauty and delight that God always intended. And those who believe in Jesus are to begin to live by this rule here and now. **That’s the point of the Sermon on the Mount (SOM).** It is a summons to live in the present that makes sense of God’s promised future.; because the future has arrived in the present in Jesus of Nazareth. We find it in Matthew’s Gospel, chapters 5-7. A great chunk of the teachings of Jesus, which on at least one occasion he delivered from some way up a ‘mountain’.

Is it actually possible to live this way? The standards of the SOM are neither readily attainable nor totally unattainable. They are attainable but only by those who have experienced the new birth which is the indispensable condition of seeing and entering God’s Kingdom. The Christian is to live up to what they already are.

“The SOMt isn’t just about us. If it was, we might admire it as a fine bit of idealism, but we would then return to our normal lives. It’s about Jesus himself. This was the blueprint for his own life. He asks nothing of his followers that he hasn’t faced himself..... The SOM isn’t just about how to behave. It’s about discovering the living God in the loving, and dying, Jesus and learning to reflect that love ourselves into the World that so badly needs it.” – Tom Wright

Come and join us on this seven week ‘hike’ to the top and back of the SOM. The journey will change you! Over the last 2000 years it has turned the World upside down. Why would you be any different?

Week	Date	Reading –	Title
------	------	-----------	-------

		<i>Matthew</i>	
1	14/4/24	5.3-12	Jesus on Life
2	21/4/24	5.13-20	Jesus the Orthodox Revolutionary
3	28/4/24	5.21-26 & 38-48	Jesus on Rage
4	5/5/24	5.27-37	Jesus on Promises
5	12/5/24	6.1-18	Jesus on Hypocrisy
6	26/5/24	6.19-7.12	Jesus on Relationships – stuff, others and God
7	2/6/24	7.13-27	Jesus on the Way

Resources you might find helpful

Commentaries:

- Tom Wright – Matthew: Part 1
- John Proctor – Matthew: A Devotional Commentary. It is quite an old commentary and not a “famous” one. But John was my tutor at college, a gem of a chap and I like his commentary! - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Matthew-Devotional-Commentary-Preaching-Peoples/dp/1841011916>

Books:

- The Cost of Discipleship – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Living differently to make a difference, The Beatitudes – Will Donaldson

Podcasts:

- The Bible Project – Sermon on the Mount
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/kicking-year-sermon-mount/>

If you know of or discover any other helpful resources for helping us understand the Sermon on the Mount please let me know so I can share them with everyone, graham.watts@4u-team.org