



# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM

### AN INTRODUCTION TO “THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM”

This section serves two purposes. It is the close of Matthew 6:1-21 and introduces our final section (6:25-7:29). Jesus here sums up not only the previous section on spiritual disciplines but really the whole sermon. He teaches us two things: First, there are earthly and heavenly rewards and the heavenly rewards are much better and second, that what really matters (and what dictates which rewards you get) are a matter of the heart.

The eyes are the lamp of the body, so what are you looking at? What catches your gaze? What makes you dream? Jesus makes this important observation and then apparently changes the subject to money, or does he? Is this a non-sequitur or is Jesus pulling a Jesus and revealing what is probably true about us? Jesus spends more time than the average preacher talking about money because (as he says) it is at the root of all kinds of evil.

### WEEK FIVE: *“The Golden Rule”*

*Matthew 7:12-14*

*When was the last time you wanted something from somebody? Maybe you wanted the best parking spot at work, or maybe you wanted your spouse to just do something out of the ordinary for you that would make you feel appreciated. Regardless of what that might be, there’s often a subconscious musing in our heart that craves what others can offer us.*

*It seems counter-intuitive, as does most of what Jesus says, that the best thing you can do for yourself is to do for others what you would want done to you. Jesus urges us to redirect our thoughts towards ourselves and express them towards others in a generous way. Maybe God wants to redeem our deepest desires for an ear to listen to us or an encouraging word to actively express His love to others who are in no doubt searching for the same things.*

*Jesus said that this isn't an easy task. With each act of self-desired love expressed towards another person comes a submissive letting go of oneself. Though Jesus has given the call, we can easily recognize by looking at the state of our world (and even the Church) today how seldom this narrow gate is accessed. Even though He didn't call us to an easy life, He did call us to the best life. Few find this life because it requires suffering, loss, and rejection.*

*But only in this emptiness of abandonment of all other things is Christ able to illuminate and sustain us. He fills us in order to shine His light to others so that all may come to know Him as their true fulfillment. What He has done and accomplished in us is something He wants to continually do through us for the sake of the ones He loves.*

- 1. Read Matthew 7:7-11.*
- 2. What can you learn about God's character in these verses?*
- 3. What do you wish others would do to/for you? How do you want to be treated by others?*
- 4. In contrast, what do you normally do for others in response to what you want done to you?*
- 5. What has God done to you that He also wants to do through you?*
- 6. What needs to happen to make this a reality?*