



AND TAUGHT THEM Matthew 5:1–2

CONNECT

1. Imagine being in the crowd, getting to hear Jesus teach you directly. How would you feel in that moment? How would you listen?

CELEBRATE

2. Recall our description of the kingdom of God: “Glad tidings of the rule of God made manifest in the person and work of Jesus, under whom the redeemed of the nations gather, dedicated to and united with Him, partakers of eternal life, ambassadors for His glory.” What sticks out to you about this definition? What questions do you have about it?
3. Matthew 5:1 says that Jesus “saw the crowds,” meaning that He did not simply look at them, but He perceived who they were. Today, God sees you, perceives you and knows exactly what you need. How do you respond to this God? How does it affect the way that you listen, knowing that you’re hearing from a God who perceives who you really are?
4. Jesus goes up the mountain, as Moses did long ago. In Deuteronomy 18:15–19, Moses talked of a prophet who would come later, who would be like him. How do we know that Jesus is this prophet? How is Matthew communicating this? See also Hebrews 3:1–6.
5. Jesus makes the incomprehensible God accessible. What can we learn about who God is by looking at Jesus?
6. Jesus sat down to teach, as rabbis did. To the crowd, it was a symbol of authority. How do you recognize the authority of God when you read His Word? When you disagree with the words of the Bible, do you trust the Word of God to be authoritative or do you trust yourself?
7. Read Nehemiah 8:8, Ezra 7:10, 2 Timothy 4:1–4 & 2 Timothy 3:16. What is the heart of good preaching? What is the heart of faithful responding as we joyfully yield to God’s rule in good preaching?
8. We can only follow the teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (or any scripture) by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Some people try to be good in their own strength. Others live as redeemed people empowered by the Holy Spirit. Which one describes your life more? How do you want to live?

CONTRIBUTE

9. The good news of the gospel is that the kingdom of God is at hand and we can join it through the salvation of Jesus. Imagine if you tried to make your life as much like the kingdom of God as possible. What would that look like? How would others respond to that?
10. Jesus came to speak the words of God. Who in your life is God calling you to bring His words to? How can you bring the Word of God to them winsomely? Take time to pray over this together.