

**SITTING IN HIS PRESENCE!**  
**MATTHEW CH5:1-2**

**ILLUSTRATION**

When it comes to receiving an inheritance, we usually understand it to be in the context, that as someone passes away, they can leave something of value for the benefit of who they are leaving that something to. The up and down side to that type of inheritance, is that you may well benefit from some gift, but you ultimately lose someone, usually of some importance to you! In this illustration, I'm trying to use through the overlapping circles, to explain the “already now” but “not yet fully” aspects of the Kingdom of God! Which is a bit like receiving an inheritance, but not exactly, if you get what I mean!

**JESUS' BACKGROUND!**

The initial phase of Jesus' ministry has been narrated by Matthew, albeit briefly, but powerfully, Ch4:17 – JESUS announces His Kingdom Mission, Ch4:18-22 JESUS calls His first “Kingdom Disciples” (learners), Ch4:22-25 JESUS conducts “Extraordinary Kingdom Ministry” teaching, preaching and healing throughout His tour of Galilee! Matthew now records an extensive “Kingly Message” (discourse), known as “The Sermon on the Mount”.

The gospel of Matthew has five extensive messages (discourses) that end at the following places, Ch7:28-29, Ch11:1, Ch13:53, Ch19:1, and Ch26:1. You'll notice that the phrase “When Jesus finished saying these things, ....” at the end of each of the “Kingly Messages.”

**JESUS BEGAN V2**

The theme from Ch1 - Ch4 focuses on “The coming of the Kingdom” and now from Ch5 - Ch9 the theme is “The lifestyle of the Kingdom”. Remember Matthew introducing “The Kingdom” theme, Ch3:2, Ch4:17, and Ch4:23?

We need to think about, before looking at “The Sermon on the Mount”: What does the “Kingdom” mean? Who is the King of the Kingdom? How do you enter the Kingdom?

Let's try and answer these from what we have gone over so far!

The context of the “Sermon on the Mount” is one where JESUS has demonstrated power over Satan Ch4:1-11, power over calling His disciples Ch4:18-22, and power over the demonic Ch4:24 along with power over illness and sickness Ch4:24! JESUS is about to give a powerful message over the *reality* and *availability* of “Kingdom Life” for His followers!

The message (discourse), “Sermon on the Mount” gets its name from the geographical setting “went up on a mountainside” Ch5:1, somewhere in Galilee. The traditional view is that is in a place called “Tabghah”, near Capernaum, on a ridge of hills just to the west of the town. JESUS goes to a mountain as a special place of divine revelation several times in Matthew, Ch4:8 - Satan tempting JESUS, Ch5:1-2 – The Sermon on the Mount, Ch17:1 – The Transfiguration, Ch24:3 – The Mount of Olives and Ch28:16 – The mountain of the resurrection appearance and commission.

JESUS sees the crowds (achlos) and heads up a mountain, sits down and starts to teach His disciples (mathetes), and Matthew wants here, to make a distinction between the two, based on believers and unbelievers.

JESUS's goal was to make disciples from among the crowds as He teaches and preaches. The sign of real faith in JESUS is when one comes out from the crowd to call JESUS Lord, and accept Him as both one's Lord and Saviour!

The disciples are those who have made a commitment to Jesus and so receive the direct teaching about the Kingdom. The crowds on the other hand are those who are interested but have not yet made a commitment!

### **JESUS' BLESSINGS V3-12**

The word “Blessed” in the Greek “Markarios”, meaning “joy or happy”, suggesting that there is something about being favoured by God, that results in joy!

But is this available now for the disciples of JESUS, or something that can be attained by following JESUS?

Let's come back to the drawing – The two aspects of Kingdom life, being, the “already now” aspect and the “not yet fully” aspect.

### **APPLICATION**

JOY comes from spending time with JESUS! How can that be done? For we are always in the presence of JESUS! You can have both regular arranged “time” with JESUS or irregular “anytime” with JESUS. For He is always with us, everywhere, all the time!

Who is Matthew saying the King is?

How do you access the Kingdom?

What can happen by entering the Kingdom?