

5. How would a true estimate of ourselves (Matthew 5:3-4) lead us to be “meek”—to have a humble and gentle attitude to others (Matthew 5:5)?
  
6. How can we be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) in our homes, in our churches and in society?
  
7. In spite of our efforts at peacemaking, what does Jesus say we will experience (Matthew 5:10-12)?
  
8. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was killed by the Nazis because of his faith, wrote: “With every beatitude the gulf is widened between the disciples and the people.” How have the beatitudes challenged you to be different?

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?




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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

### God's Rescue Operation

“7 Core Values of a Highly Resilient Life”  
Matthew 5-7

From chapter 5 through chapter 7 (known as the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus focuses on values that guide his people when they are submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### The Sermon on the Mount

1. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:3-12)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we pursue God's right-side-up values in an upside-down world.

2. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:13-16)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we impact the world for Christ by being different from the \_\_\_\_\_.

“The essential theme of the whole Bible from beginning to end is that God's historical purpose is to call out a people for himself; that this people is a ‘holy’ people, set apart from the world to belong to him and to obey him; and that its vocation is to be true to its identity, that is, to be ‘holy’ or ‘different’ in all its outlook and behavior.” (John Stott)

Leviticus 18:1-4

There is no single paragraph of the Sermon on the Mount in which this contrast between Christian and non-Christian standards is not drawn. ...Sometimes it is the Gentiles or pagan nations with whom Jesus contrasts his followers. ...At other times Jesus contrasts his disciples not with Gentiles but...with religious people...” (John Stott)

Jesus doesn't show us a “third way,” he shows us the “\_\_\_\_\_,” the way it's supposed to be.

3. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (5:17-48)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we guard and tend to our hearts and minds, pursuing heart renovation, formation, and \_\_\_\_\_.

4. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (6:1-18)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we do acts of piety for an audience of One, seeking God himself, his rewards, and his \_\_\_\_\_.

5. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (6:19-34)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we trust God to \_\_\_\_\_ for our needs, and we live peace-filled lives.

6. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (7:1-20)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we \_\_\_\_\_ the road less traveled.

7. A Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ (7:21-27)

Value: When we're submitted, surrendered, and activated by God's rule and reign, we learn and \_\_\_\_\_ the teachings of Jesus.

#### Resources Cited and Recommended:

- John Stott, [The Message of the Sermon on the Mount \(The Bible Speaks Today Series\)](#)

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Whom do we typically regard as blessed or fortunate? (The questions in this study are taken from John Stott, *Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom of God: 13 Studies for Individuals or Groups*, an IVP LifeGuide study.)
3. Read Matthew 5:3-12. How does our normal description of the blessed or fortunate person compare with those whom Jesus considers blessed (Matthew 5:1-12)?
4. To be "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3) is to acknowledge our spiritual poverty, our bankruptcy before God. Why is this an indispensable condition for receiving the Kingdom of heaven?