



Sermon on the Mount Study Guide – Week 11  
November 18-30  
Matthew 5-7  
The Divine Conspiracy, pp. 375-400

After taking time to study the Sermon on the Mount, we have learned about how the Kingdom is already – in the here and now. But there is also a beautiful future ahead.

The Sermon on the Mount is part of this beautiful historical-redemptive story of how God is at work in our world. Dallas Willard describes God’s way of moving toward the future as gentle persistence in unending purpose. God works to transform the human heart by living with and in them.

Dallas Willard ends his book with a snapshot of what life in the Kingdom leads us to – a restoration of all things. But the restoration is yet to come; it’s in the future. Willard writes that to live strongly and creatively in the kingdom, we need to have our minds set on what the future looks like.

The future restoration of all things needs to make sense to us. It needs to be something we can envision clearly, and anticipate with joy. Because when we live with the future in mind, it affects the way we live.

What does this future restoration look like? What can we expect? What Willard says might be a little surprising – he writes, “When we pass through what we call death, we do not lose the world. Indeed, we see it for the first time as it really is” (392).

He doesn’t expect that our experience now will be fundamentally different than what it will be. Our experience will be much clearer, richer, and deeper because it will be unrestrained by the limitations of our body now. Our lives will then be rooted in the broader reality of God’s kingdom, having far greater power and scope (395).

When the Kingdom has fully come, we will experience the glory of God reigning completely. God’s power will work in us *and* through us more fully – more powerfully! God invites us to join him. He has told us how we can join the Kingdom, and asks us to participate in it – now and forevermore.

Alleluia. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Discussing the Text:

1. Discuss your learning moments from this study of the Sermon on the Mount.
  - a. What surprised you?
  - b. What parts of the text were unforgettable?
2. How has the Sermon on the Mount informed how you read the rest of the Bible?
3. Has this study changed the way you view Jesus' teachings?

Discussing the World:

1. Talk about the habits that have changed after studying the Sermon on the Mount
2. What does discipleship look like in your life?
  - a. How has it changed throughout the semester?
3. What will you do to continue learning – to continue your 'apprenticeship with Jesus'?

“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”  
(Matthew 7:28-29)