



Jesus' gospel is not just the offer of salvation, but the declaration of sovereignty. This is the clear message of his Sermon on the Mount. It is a call to find the truly blessed life by taking a narrow path most won't choose—the way of King Jesus.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by contending that “no speech has more memorable lines than the address we call *The Sermon on the Mount*.” Which lines resonate with you the most? Follow up: **Read Matthew 4:17, 23-5:2.** What message did Jesus preach and why was it so significant? What else stands out to you about the context?

2 THE WORDS OF JESUS... are a king's speech. *Jesus has been announcing the good news that God's reign is breaking into the world through his presence and ministry.* What type of a response does this good news expect? In what ways is this an invitation and not simply an imperative? Follow up: Rick went on to say, “*It is not just about life after death; it is about life before life after death.*” Why is it so important to understand that distinction? How can we experience the reign of God in our lives right now?

3 THE WORDS OF JESUS... are a king's speech that expects obedience... *So many people who claim to believe in Jesus treat the Sermon on the Mount like something Jesus is offering for extra credit.* Why do some people think being a Christian doesn't actually demand doing what Jesus says? Follow up: When does “your way” of living sometimes run counter to “The Way of King Jesus”?

4 THE WORDS OF JESUS... are a king's speech that expects obedience and promise blessing. *We are designed by our Creator to want and crave a life that is satisfying and meaningful.* How is the good life often defined or described by the world's standards? How

does that differ from the way of King Jesus? Follow up: Share an example of how you've been blessed as a result of obeying Jesus.

5 THE WAY OF JESUS... invites the least. **Read Matthew 5:3-12.** *Jesus starts his speech by throwing open wide the doors to his kingdom...* What cultural norms does this confront? In what ways are the beatitudes words of hope and healing for the broken, unnoticed, and marginalized? Follow up: Which beatitude do you most relate to and how does it make you feel knowing that the kingdom of God is open to you?

6 THE WAY OF JESUS... redefines what's best. *Your definition of “blessed” depends on your view of “best.”* How does Jesus' view of what's best differ from the world's view? Share an example of how the way of Jesus has been best for you. Follow up: What does it mean to be persecuted for Jesus' sake (what might that look like today)?

7 THE WAY OF JESUS... is built to last. *The way of King Jesus is not a promise of a life that is storm-free, but it is a path to a life that is storm-proof.* Why is it better to be blessed in the way Jesus said, even if it's not easier? Follow up: Rick closed by reminding us that “*When we follow Jesus we don't just receive blessing; we become a blessing.*” How has that been true from your experience? Share one next step you can take this week as a result of what you learned from this message.

