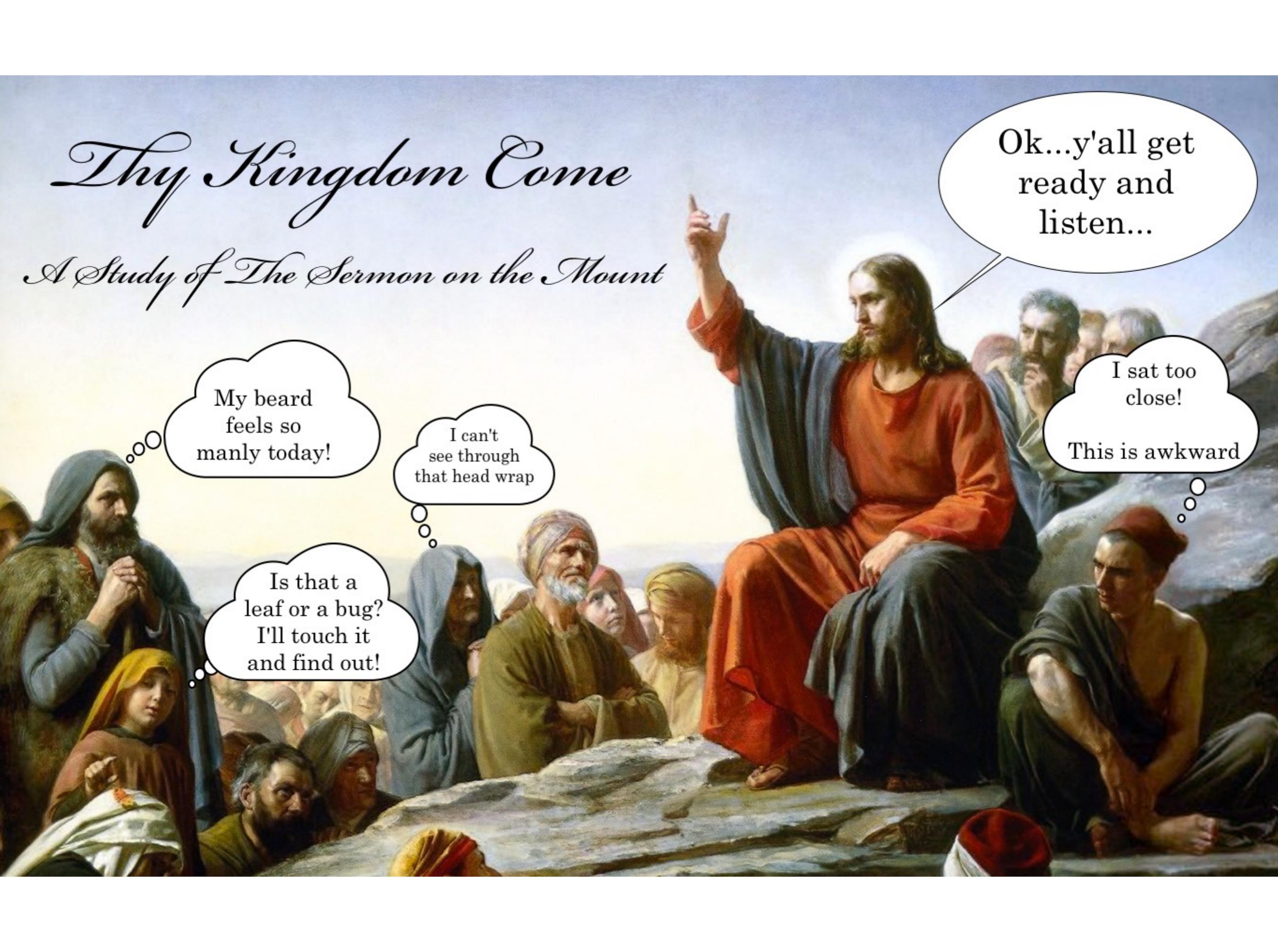


Thy Kingdom Come

A Study of The Sermon on the Mount



Ok...y'all get ready and listen...

My beard feels so manly today!

I can't see through that head wrap

Is that a leaf or a bug? I'll touch it and find out!

I sat too close!

This is awkward

The Beatitudes (Blessings, Yo!)

The Verses - Blessed are...

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What Are Beatitudes, Exactly?

“The Beatitudes”

- While we call them “the” beatitudes, this is not the only place “blessings” appear in scripture.
- Two types of beatitudes exist
 - Those that bless God - “Blessed are Thou, O Lord our God...”
 - Those that bless human beings (Genesis 30:13 and Psalm 1:1-2)

Those that Bless Humans - Break It Down, Yo!

- Blessed in **present circumstances (Prov. 3:13 and Ps. 32:1)**
- Blessed b/c what lies in store:
 - This is where Matthew's beatitudes belong. They are "an eschatological" promise.
 - The first and last of "the beatitudes" are present tense, but in a Grecian way that presents certainty, not already arrived reality.

So How Does Matthew Lay Down the
Beat(itudes)?

Matthew's Beat(itudes)

- Create an opening with “understanding” and “hope”
- These statements form a “community” of the oppressed
- “Jesus takes up words with negative connotations and associates them with the saints.”
- These words were intended to **startle**. “So the beatitudes have things backward. To take them seriously is to call into question our ordinary values.”

So What?

- The beatitudes set the pace and tone for the rest of “the Sermon”
- If one understands that even in one’s misfortunes one is blessed, then one can begin to embrace a call to a radically demanding way of life (Note: Demanding does not equal undesired).
- The beatitudes play off other areas of “the Sermon”, for example 5:6 to 5:20.
- Primarily we find here “consolation and promise” not ethical demands.
- “It is only after hearing the comforting words of 5:3-12, words that tell of rewards that human beings cannot create for themselves but can only receive as gifts from God, that one is confronted by the Messiah’s demands.”