

Jesus Uncut (Series Intro)

Series: *Jesus Uncut – Sermon on the Mount*
– Matthew 5:1-3 –

Setting the scene. . . Matt. 4:23-25

1. The Primary Audience

“His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them...”

2. The Principal Requirement

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

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. Is Jesus *describing* who His followers **are**, or *prescribing* what they must **do**? What difference does it make?
3. Would you say that your faith in Jesus is simply making you more compliant (better at following rules) or helping you become the kind of person from whom the expectations of the Kingdom more naturally flow? Explain
4. Why would someone spend so much time and effort, such as the Scribes and Pharisees did, to mimic righteousness rather than develop it?
5. How do you know if you are “poor in spirit”? See Ps. 86:1-17; Isa. 57:15; 66:1-2 How would you describe the opposite of this quality?
6. Why is this character quality so important to God? Why did Jesus talk about this *first*? Do we ever “outgrow” it?
7. What if the decisive question is not, ‘What will I have to give up to follow Jesus,’ but, ‘What will I experience if I choose not to?’ Would you describe your faith as more of a decisive moment or a series of moments?

