



## “Making Sense of the Sermon”

May 17, 2021

*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. -Mt 7:28-29*

*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said... -Mt 4:23-25, 5:1-2*

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. - Mt 7:24-25*

1. As Pastor Steve mentioned, the Sermon on the Mount is often perceived as impossible to obey or impractical to follow. What thoughts do (or did) you have about this famous sermon?
  
2. Read Mt 7:28-29 & Mt 4:23-25, 5:1-2. Pastor Steve provided four truths that frame how we should understand Jesus’ teaching in this sermon. Namely that it...
  - a. ...is rooted in the authority of Jesus. (Mt 7:28b)
  - b. ...is rooted in the wisdom of Jesus. (Mt 7:28a)
  - c. ...invites us into life in the kingdom of God. (Mt 4:23-5:2, Mt 4:17, Mt, 6:9-10)
  - d. ...envisions the Spirit-empowered life. (Jn 16:13-14)

Which of these truths spoke most to you as we begin this new teaching series?

3. Read Matthew 7:24-25. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' invitation for us to embrace his teaching by “putting it into practice”. What are some insights we can glean from the metaphor Jesus uses here? In what ways have you found it difficult to apply the teachings from this sermon your life and why do you think this is?