

LINES IN THE SAND

MAIN TAKEAWAY

In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus drew lines in the sand by redefining reality according to the Kingdom of God. Followers of Jesus are marked by their love for God and others, and for their obedience to God's commands.

INTRODUCTION

**Have you ever used a "cheat code" when playing a game or accomplishing a task?
How did it change things for you?**

How have you discovered a *cheat code* for life in knowing the Lord—insight and instruction from God's Word, Spirit, and people (Psalm 19:8)?

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 6:17-26

Only Jesus. Pastor Jonathan said, "Politics can restrain behavior and influence can shape opinion, but only Jesus can heal the heart." How does the Sermon on the Plain reveal that only Jesus can heal what sin and darkness distort?

According to Jesus, how can someone live the "blessed" life? What do the "woes" warn against?

READ LUKE 6:27-35

Responding to Opposition. What is the foundational mark of a genuine believer in Jesus Christ (Matthew 22:36-40)? To whom is this directed (John 3:16; 13:34-35)?

How did Jesus love His enemies and overcome evil with good (Luke 23:34; 47)?

How can our love for others reflect God's love (Luke 6:35-36)? Why must love be rooted in truth?

READ LUKE 6:36-49

Hearing Versus Obeying. Pastor Jonathan said, “Jesus invites us not just to *admire* Him, but to *follow* Him.” How do Jesus’ teaching and actions reveal our need for a Savior? How does this reassure us when we fall short?

How can we evaluate, inspect, and confront others in a spirit of love—to restore people and lead them to Christ?

What is the mark of true faith (Luke 6:46)? How does this reveal the difference between a solid or faulty foundation, heaving versus obeying?

APPLICATION

Jesus interpreted present suffering in light of future certainty. How does the eternal perspective of Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Plain help you live differently in the present?

Pastor Jonathan quoted G. Campbell Morgan: “The Master is the Revelation and the Interpretation of His own law. I cannot live there, save in the measure in which my life is His life, interpreted to me, realized within me, manifested through me, by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.” How can you tell that you follow Jesus and have built your life on His foundation?

How would you summarize Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Plain? How does it cause you to live in a way that is counter-cultural and honoring to God?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for His teaching, showing us how to live and please God. Pray for a renewed focus on loving God and others and obeying Jesus’ commands.