

NOT NORMAL



GOING DEEPER AT HOME

JANUARY 9: A NEW KINGDOM

History is filled with all kinds of speeches that have shaped the trajectory of humanity. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, John F Kennedy's inauguration speech, Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech or Nellie McClung's mock parliament speech, are all given with the hope of people catching hold of a better & brighter future. Jesus too, gives a speech at the start of His ministry, it's the Sermon on the Mount, but Jesus doesn't give it to install the hope of a better & brighter future, He gives it to communicate that this future is now here, that through Him the Kingdom of Heaven, God's reign on earth, is now here. Today we start a new teaching series on the Beatitudes. The first message is an introduction to the series.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 4:17, 23

Matthew 5:3 - 14

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. What famous speech comes to your mind? What is something about that speech that captivates your attention & why?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new to you or challenged you?
3. Jesus comes proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven is near, that God's reign on earth is taking place. Where in your life do you tend to build your own kingdom rather than let God reign?
4. How is the Kingdom of Heaven good news? How is it good news for you?
5. Read Matthew 5:3 - 14. How do you typically understand "blessed" and how does this compare to the way Jesus uses it?
6. Jesus' description of those who are blessed sets the Kingdom of Heaven as being different, not normal, to what the people were used to. How does this "not normal" kingdom impact us to live "not normal" lives?
7. How is the the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond? What step(s) of obedience can you start taking today to get your spiritual edge back?