

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus the Teacher

Matthew's gospel collects Jesus' teaching in what is called the Sermon on the Mount. (Chs 5-7) Matthew's Jewish readers would remember Mount Sinai and how Moses brought God's law to the People. In Matthew's gospel Jesus says very clearly, "I have not come to do away with the Law or the teachings of the prophets." Matthew wants his readers to recognise Jesus as the 'new Moses' calling all people to a new way of living.

A NEW WAY OF LIVING (based on Matthew 5: 1-17)

When he saw the crowds Jesus went up the mountain and sat down. His disciples gathered round him and this is what he taught them.

You will be blessed when you have an open and generous heart.

When you share what you have with other people

God will be very close to you.

You will be blessed when you reach out to those who grieve.

When you make friends with those who are sad and lonely,

God will be there to comfort you.

You will be blessed when you are gentle.

When you treat others with kindness and patience

God will give you all you need.

You will be blessed when you work for justice.

When you respect and stand up for the rights of others,

God will give you life to the full.

You will be blessed when you forgive others and don't hold grudges.

You will find God ready to forgive you.

You will be blessed when you desire what is good.

When you always search for what is good, you will find God in all around you.

You will be blessed when you are a peacemaker.

When you try not to let a quarrel even begin or are first to say sorry you will be known as children of God.

You will be blessed when you are made fun of for doing what God wants.

When people laugh at you for living in God's way,

know that you are very close to God.

Remember what happened to so many of God's messengers.

Rejoice and be glad.