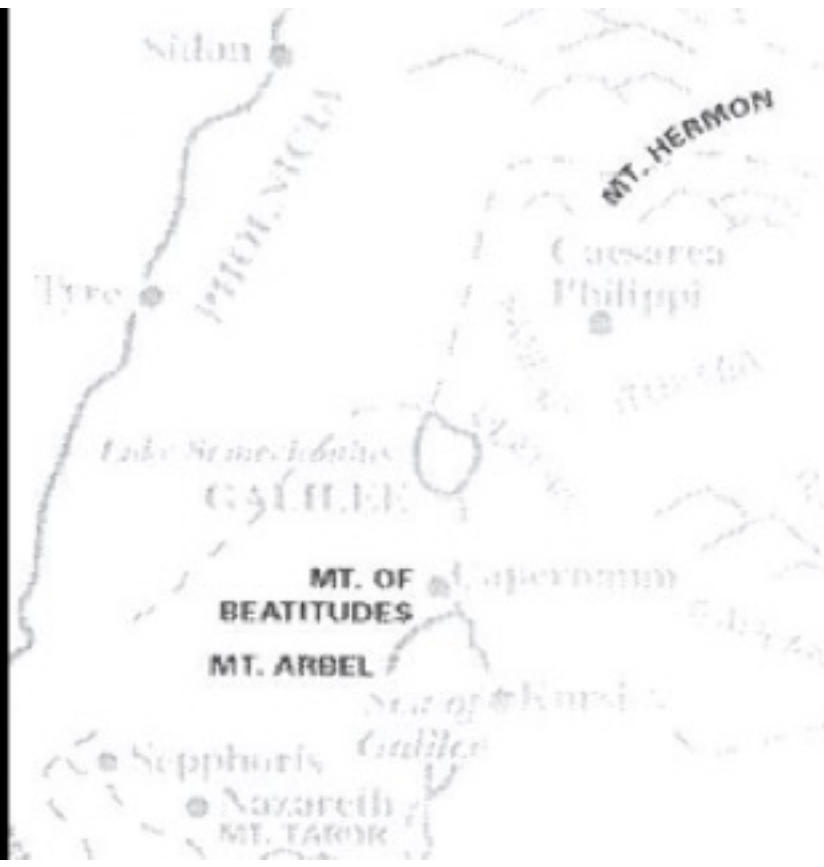




# **The Way: Proclaiming the Kingdom**

*Tom Deviney*







**Matthew 4:17**

**From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." *New Revised Standard Version***

**This Isaiah-prophesied sermon came to life in Galilee the moment Jesus started preaching. He picked up where John left off: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here." *The Message Bible***

**Mark 1:14–15**

**Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." *NRSV***

**After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message." *Message Bible***



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## **Matthew 5:1–11**

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:**



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

***New Revised Standard Version***

**"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.**

***The Message Bible***



**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

**"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.**



**"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

**"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.**



**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

**"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.**





**"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**

**"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'carefull,' you find yourselves cared for.**



**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

**"You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.**



**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

**"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.**



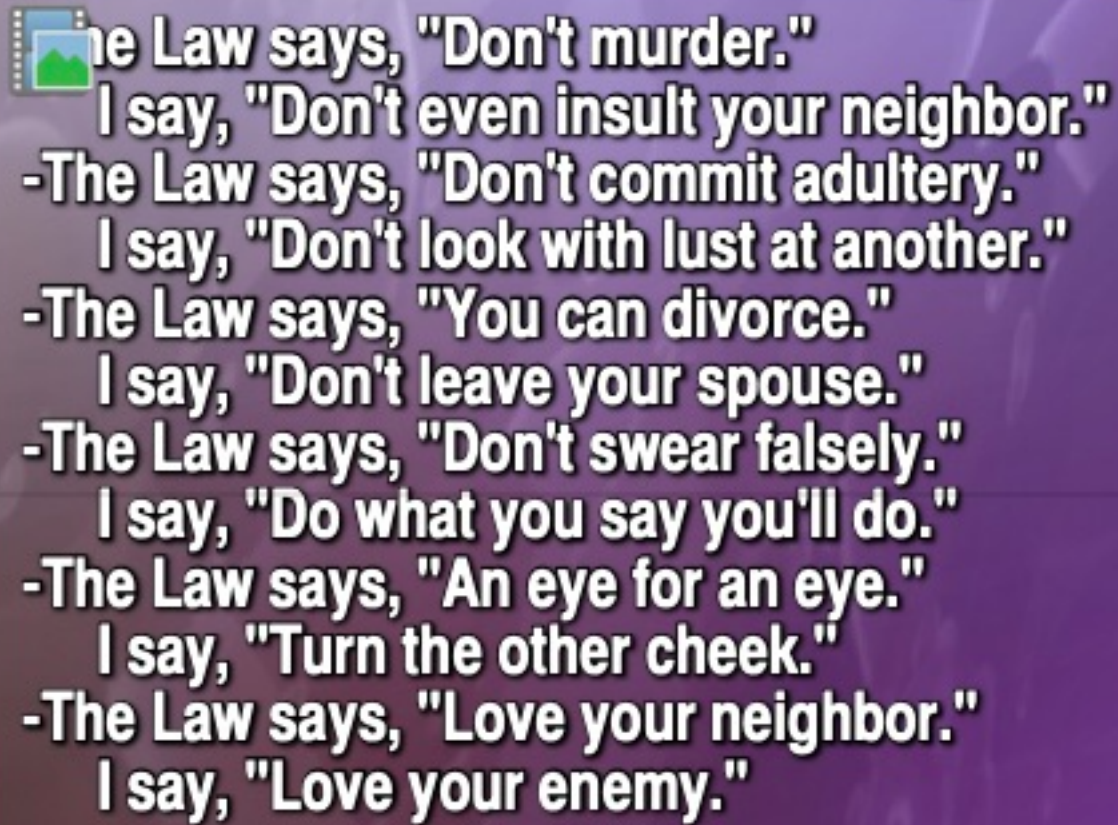
**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**


**"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. Not only that – count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.**



# Salt and Light





 The Law says, "Don't murder."  
I say, "Don't even insult your neighbor."  
-The Law says, "Don't commit adultery."  
I say, "Don't look with lust at another."  
-The Law says, "You can divorce."  
I say, "Don't leave your spouse."  
-The Law says, "Don't swear falsely."  
I say, "Do what you say you'll do."  
-The Law says, "An eye for an eye."  
I say, "Turn the other cheek."  
-The Law says, "Love your neighbor."  
I say, "Love your enemy."



# Prayer, Fasting, and Charity



# Judgment and the Golden Rule



# **Money, Possessions, and Worry**















## Matthew 7:24-29

**"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit – but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards." When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying – quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.**



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