



## The Sermon on the Mount

*“3Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:3-5*

The Sermon on the Mount contains the most profound statements ever spoken. Jesus discloses infinitely precious truths about the nature of God and our relationship to Him. He makes these teachings the bedrock of His discipleship training. If we wish to follow Jesus, this text provides the essential elements that must mark our lives.

This passage opens with the word "blessed." For a Jewish audience, this word brings to mind a depth of Old Testament texts, including Psalm 1. In the first Psalm, the writer describes the life of the blessed as a life delighting in the Word of God. In verse 3 of this Psalm, the psalmist provides this illustration from horticulture. If we delight in God's Word, we will be "like a tree firmly planted in streams of water." Similarly, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with His own illustration of the blessing for those who listen and obey this sermon's teachings. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27. As the psalmist uses the picture of a tree, Jesus uses the picture of a house. In each case, the health and spiritual condition of the individual is related to their connection to the Word of God. A tree firmly planted by streams of water parabolically depicts a person firmly living according to God's Word. A house built on a firm foundation illustrates a life established on hearing and doing what Jesus says. The words of Jesus in this set of teachings become the foundation for all disciples of Jesus. If we wish to follow Him, if we wish to know this divine blessing of certainty during the crises of life, we must hear these words and we must following them.

The first 10 verses of the Sermon on the Mount are

known as the beatitudes. The concepts presented in the beatitudes follow a progression through the spiritual life of each disciple of Christ. The first beatitude is “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” All discipleship begins with an awareness of spiritual poverty. We are bankrupt. We possess no spiritual worth apart from the spiritual work of God. Sin separates us from God. We can never be right with God on our own merit. Like a debtor with millions of dollars in unsecured loans, we stand before God in a position of great need. The blessings from God begin to flow when we embrace this truth. We must be humble before God, acknowledging our own inability, our own spiritual poverty and His resources. The poor in spirit possess God's kingdom. Out of our willingness to embrace our impoverished condition comes God's willingness to share His immeasurable kingdom with us. Second, our spiritual brokenness must produce an appropriate contrition and repentance. We cannot be happy debtors. We cannot live under the weight of mounting debt and shrug it off. If we really see our poverty the way God sees our poverty, we will have our hearts crushed. We truly see sin as it truly is when we see it as a heartbreaking violation of the very person of God. Sin violates our Creator's character. Moving from poverty and brokenness, the third beatitude, which is dependent on the first two, is that we must be humble toward others. The word "gentle", sometimes translated as "meek", speaks to the true impact our spiritual poverty should have on us. Those who have acknowledged spiritual bankruptcy before God, who have been broken by their bankruptcy before Him, realize that all of us are in the same mess. If you cannot repay a million dollars, it is foolish to judge your fellow debtor who owes a few dollars more or less than you do. We are all spiritually broke. Gentleness marks a disciple who understands their own poverty and gently responds to other bankrupt sinners.

*“6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:6-9*

We are spiritually bankrupt and so is everyone else. That knowledge produces gentleness toward  
Con't on pg 2



other spiritually impoverished souls. However, our bankruptcy is not a license. We must be humble before the word of God. Acknowledging our spiritual poverty while responding gently to others, does not give us a license to run right past the law of God. Thus comes the fourth beatitude, “blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...” Just as when a debtor humbly confesses their helpless plight, this does not give that poor manager of resources an excuse to double down. Yes, we are spiritually impoverished. Having come to that realization, we now battle against the very actions that put us in that position to begin with. Now living under God's grace, we battle to honor Him by obeying His law. Our humility before God, and gentleness toward others, drives us to hunger and thirst for doing the right thing in our relationship with God and with others. What are the right attitudes toward God and others? If we are hungering for the right things, what does that look like? Consider the next three beatitudes of mercy, purity, and peacemaking. When we hunger for doing the right thing, we must do the right thing while allowing mercy to drive our actions. It is possible to do the right things but lack mercy toward others. We must also have a purity of heart. It is possible to do the right things outwardly and even demonstrate mercy while having impure motives. What should be our motive? Jesus tells us in this blessing, “for they shall see God.” The glory of God is the pure motive of the heart. And the purity of heart for the glory of God will receive from God the fulfillment of that desire. God will reveal His glory to those whose hearts are passionate for Him. Lastly, in this set of four beatitudes, God blesses the peacemakers. Peacemakers are individuals that seek restored and healthy relationships between themselves and others. In the pursuit of righteousness and mercy, with purity of heart, they seek to imitate God in their efforts to restore broken relationships. That is why Jesus declares this blessing on peacemakers. “They shall be called sons of God.” There is nothing more imitating of God than pursuing individuals in broken relationships, seeking to bring restoration. Again, there is a growing maturity to the discipleship described here in these beatitudes. It takes a maturing believer to pursue righteousness while acting with mercy toward others. It takes maturity to pursue God and others with a purity of heart. It also takes great maturity to be a peacemaker.

*“10Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:10-12*

In these last two beatitudes, Jesus presents a realistic view of the disciple's life in this world. If we would live as Christ has called us to live, according to these beatitude principles in the opening to the Sermon on the Mount, we might expect the people around us to speak kindly about us and to treat us well. In fact, there are many times when others will be thankful for our brokenness over our own sin, our humility, gentleness, grace, peacemaking and even our pursuit of righteousness. However, even pure hearted disciples can face the anger of a fallen world. Persecution, for the sake of doing the right thing, comes with a blessing, “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” That promise from Christ connects us back to the initial beatitude. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” According to Jesus, having a sense of our own destitute nature - our own spiritual bankruptcy, marks us as kingdom citizens. Now, in bringing the beatitudes full circle, Jesus says that being persecuted for doing the right thing also marks us as citizens of the kingdom of heaven. We might not feel like we belong to an everlasting kingdom when we are overwhelmed by our own spiritual poverty or we are facing persecution in this life. However, God's kingdom stands in striking contrast to the current kingdom that governs this world. Jesus tells us we are blessed when persecuted for doing the right thing because it demonstrates our citizenship. Persecution for following Christ also demonstrates our association with Him. If we follow Him we will face opposition, persecution, slander, and hatred. Jesus told His disciples in John 15:18-19, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” Persecuted for doing the right thing and being hated for our association with Christ, what are we to do? Incredibly Jesus says to “rejoice!” Why would we rejoice over such awful consequences? Rejoice because “your reward in heaven is great.” He will not leave our faithfulness and suffering without divine commendation. Every act of sacrifice, every battle for personal righteousness, and every humble and merciful act will be recognized by Christ. In fact, if we walk according to the standards presented in the beatitudes there is great reward.

## Children's Ministry



**Wednesday Nights, for kids ages 3\* - 6th grade**  
**6:30pm - 8:00pm**

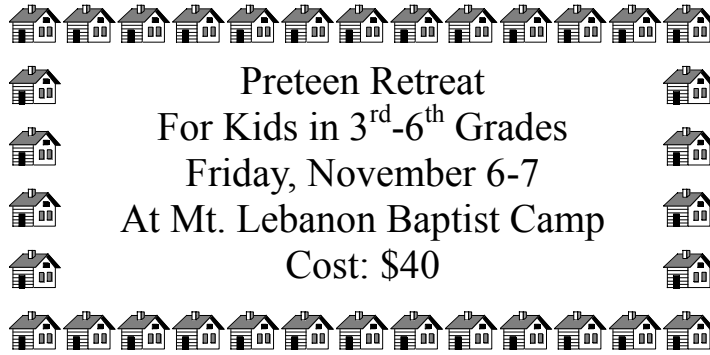
\*3 year olds in Cubbies must be potty trained, and have turned 3 by Sept. 1st. A parent must stay on campus through the duration of the program. See our website to see what Adult Bible Study classes we have for you.

**October is Baseball Month! Wear your favorite baseball team's gear on Wednesday, October 28th.**

**Sunday Nights 5:30pm**  
**Front Lawn of**  
**Worship Center**



This Fall we are studying 1 John & Revelation. Join us as we learn what it means to be a disciple committed to going out into the world to make disciples! For K - 6th Grade.



**Preteen Retreat**  
**For Kids in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades**  
**Friday, November 6-7**  
**At Mt. Lebanon Baptist Camp**  
**Cost: \$40**

### Sunday School

Join us every Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45am as we journey through the Gospel Project. This fall we restart "In the Beginning"



**Fall Festival is Coming!**



**Fall Festival is Coming!**

**We need CANDY CANDY CANDY and GENTLE USED STUFFED ANIMALS!**  
**Bring your donation and sign up to volunteer.**  
**We will be collecting Sunday mornings & evenings in the Worship Center foyer.**  
**Email [Brittany@matthewroad.org](mailto:Brittany@matthewroad.org) to sign up as a volunteer or if you have questions.**



## Student Ministry

**For any questions about anything @ anytime, contact Zach (210-818-8002) or Jonathan (214-796-9181)**

**Hey leaders and parents!**

**Here's what is coming to the Student Ministry this fall:**

- ☞ Fields of Faith, October 14th, tentative, watch Youth Weekly Email for more info
- ☞ Fall Festival, October 31st, see Zach or Jonathan to help with "Youth Corner"
- ☞ Youth Fall Retreat, November 20th-21st, Mt Lebanon, more info to come

## Weekly Bible Studies

**High School Guys (9-12th) @ Geisendorffs**  
**Mondays 6:30pm (Tim Wittman)**

**High School Girls @ Christine Wehrli & Maggie Dean, Thursdays 6:30pm (Christine & Maggie)**

**High School Guys (Students in area) @ Kings, Mondays 6:30pm (Weston Southers)**

**Middle School Guys @ Hines, Mondays 6pm-8pm (Jonathan Phipps)**

**Middle School Girls @ Halsells, Mondays 7:00pm - 8:00pm (Tiffanye Phipps)**

**Athletes Guys Bible Study @ MRBC, Mondays 6:00pm (Zach)**

Also be praying for these students and teachers as they help start small groups/Bible studies at their schools: P7 Bible Clubs with Preston Rose and Nick King @Dubiski, FCA @ South Grand Prairie with Ms. Traci, FCA at Truman M.S. with Mr. Wade, FCA at Reagan M.S. with Brent, FCA at Kennedy Leadership Academy, FCA at Arlington H.S. with Christine Wehrli, Fine Arts Academy Lunch Bible study, and Jackson M.S. FCA with Sam Bonzi.

## Mary Hill Davis Offering



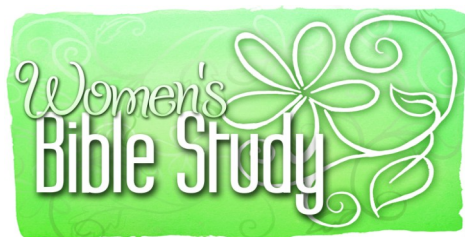
### Texas Missions and The Mary Hill Davis Offering

Your prayers and gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions® support the work of Oil Patch Chaplains. One of those chaplains makes a 70-mile circuit from her home to place bibles in hotels and motels among the oil fields. One day a Hindu man who manages a hotel called. He had been reading an Oil Patch Bible. He wanted to talk to someone about his soul. Chaplains arrived on the scene within minutes. He accepted Christ and was baptized later that day. Praise God for faithful volunteers who take God's Word beyond the walls of the church.

Why should you give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions? Giving is an act of obedience to God's command. Giving shows you trust God's provision. Giving answers someone's prayer. Giving advances God's Kingdom

Our church goal for the Mary Hill Davis Offering is \$8,000. Envelopes are in the Worship Center chair backs. Please consider praying and giving so that many more people like the hotel manager can come to Christ.

## Women's Ministry



### Weekly Bible Studies:

#### Sunday mornings

Rachel Sullenger & Tiffany Marich  
- the book of Timothy  
Joy Richards & Chris Anderson  
- the book of Acts

#### Sunday nights

Meg Trihus & Others  
- the book of Acts

#### Wednesday Nights

Cyndi King  
- the book of Luke

#### Friday Mornings, Chick Fil A

Cyndi King  
- The book of Luke



### Mark your calendars:

- ✧ October 3rd - 1st Monday Trade Days, Canton, Tx
- ✧ March 4th - 5th, 2016 - Beth Moore, Waco, Tx

# LIVING PROOF

live

WACO, TX

March 4-5, 2016

## Women's Retreat

March 4- 5, 2016

Waco, Texas

Beth Moore Living Proof, Live

Cost: \$90.00 per person if registered by November 3rd. This includes the cost for the conference and hotel room. (Fairfield)

- \$45.00 due at registration
- After November 4th, cost is 100.00
- Saturday breakfast is included, you will be responsible for dinner Friday night and lunch Saturday.

For more information, you can go to the website:  
<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/Living-Proof-Live>

Questions, or to RSVP, please contact Rachel  
at [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org)

## Music Ministry

It is good to give thanks to the Lord And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night, With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, With resounding music upon the lyre. For You, O Lord, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands. Psalm 92:1-4 (NASB)

I am so excited to have the choir leading once again on Sunday mornings! "How Great Thou Art" is one of my all-time favorite hymns, and I had been waiting a couple of weeks for the choir's return before scheduling it to be sung again. It's undeniably moving to hear so many voices joined together, boldly singing of our Lord's work on earth: creating, sustaining, saving, and restoring.

The story of how this hymn came to popular use in America is truly fascinating! In 1885, a 26-year-old Swedish Minister named Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled "O Mighty God". This was published, paired with an old Swedish melody, and largely forgotten. Years later, an English missionary named Stuart Hine heard the song while serving in Russia. Drawing inspiration from his experiences in the Carpathian mountains, he heavily reworked the text and revised the tune. Finally, evangelist J. Edwin Orr heard the hymn being sung by a Naga tribe living in Assam, India. He brought the hymn to America to be used in his evangelistic meetings in 1953 and was soon popularized by George Beverly Shea. What an amazing story! More details can be found in a wonderful book called "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan.  
~ Jeff

We hope that you and your family will consider joining our musical ensembles this Fall. It's never too late to join and we have a place for you on Wednesday nights!

♫ Youth Choir	5:45-6:15	Choir Room (behind the sanctuary)
♫ Children's Choir	6:00-6:30	Education Building (second floor)
♫ Adult Choir & Band	6:30-7:30	Sanctuary
♫ Contemporary Band	7:45-8:30	Sanctuary

## MRA Fall Festival Photo Booth



Matthew Road Academy is excited to be hosting the Fall Festival Photo Booth once again this year! MRA will host a pumpkin decorating contest for our students and we look forward to you stopping by the booth and seeing all the wonderful creations that our 3rd-12th graders have created! Remember, photos at the booth are free of charge and printed instantly! You do not need to be a youngster to have the memory of Fall Festival captured, we encourage all volunteers and guests in attendance to stop by.



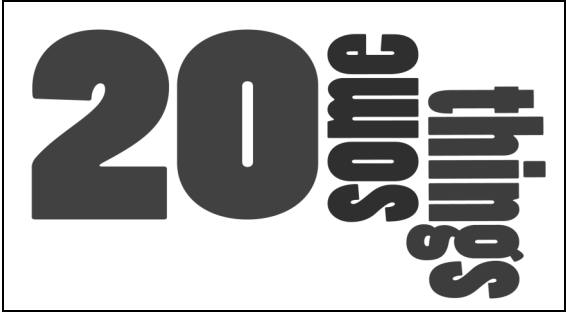
## Newcomer's Class & Lunch



NEXT CLASS -  
Sunday, October 18th  
12:15pm Fellowship Hall  
Lunch & Childcare Provided

We have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We request that all new members attend this class. We also invite those who have not yet joined our church, or rejoined our family and wish to learn more about our church home. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little about the background of our church. This informal setting will allow you the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church. Please RSVP to the Welcome Desk, or to the church office at [christy@matthewroad.org](mailto:christy@matthewroad.org), or call 972-641-2717. Lunch and childcare are provided.

20Somethings



- ☺ October 11th: Lunch @ Olive Branch, 12:15pm
- ☺ November 6th - 7th: TBA
- ☺ June, 2016: Destin, cost \$350
- ☺ August, 2016: Mission trip to Mexico, cost \$250

Classes:

- ~ Sunday Morning 9:45 am: Daniel Sweet leading Explore God, part of the Explore God.com movement (Ed Bldg)
- ~ Sunday Night 5:30 pm: Jared Scott leading Basics with Francis Chan (Fellowship Hall)
- ~ Wednesday Night 6:45pm: Steve Hines leading Acts/Epistles (Teller Room)

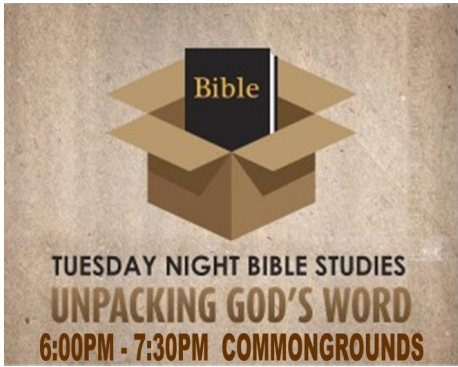
Contact Rachel at [rachel@matthewroad.org](mailto:rachel@matthewroad.org) to find out the latest events & activities!

College Ministries



Class: Sunday Morning, 9:45am  
Ed. Bldng., 2nd Flr.  
Teacher: Kevin & Caitlin Marek  
Studying: various books of the Bible

Contact Steve at [stephen@matthewroad.org](mailto:stephen@matthewroad.org) to find out the latest events & activities!



October 2015 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, [www.matthewroad.org](http://www.matthewroad.org), or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- October 2nd: College Friday Event, see Stephen
- October 3rd: Women's Event - Trade Days in Canton, see ad on pg 5
- October 7th: Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Conference Room
- October 10th: Youth Outreach Event, see Zach or Jonathan
- October 11th: Observance of the Lord's Supper, during all Worship Services
- October 12th: PAW & K2 Closed for Columbus Day
- October 14th: Youth Fields of Faith Event, see Zach or Jonathan
- October 16th: Parents Night Out, 6:30pm, Worship Center **\*Must have reservation, see Cyndi**
- October 18th: NewComer Class & Lunch, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall, see ad on pg 6  
Deacon Meeting, 4:30pm, Conference Room
- October 21st: Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Conference Room
- October 23rd - 25th: PAW Teacher Retreat, see Cyndi
- October 28th: Quarterly Business Meeting, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- October 31st: Fall Festival, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, MRBC Campus

Discipleship

Sunday Nights:

- ◇ 20Somethings - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Discipleship - Sanctuary, 5:30pm
- ◇ Ladies Bible Study - Conference Room, 5:30pm
- ◇ Young Marrieds Bible Study - Library, 5:30pm
- ◇ Adult Couples Class - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm
- ◇ Guy Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm , see Zach for exact location
- ◇ Girl Talk for youth - CommonGrounds, 5:30pm, see Zach for exact location
- ◇ MD<sup>2</sup> for children - Education Building, 5:30pm

Wednesday Nights:

- ◇ AWANA for children - Ed. Building, 6:30pm
- ◇ Collide for youth - CommonGrounds, 6:30pm
- ◇ Adult Bible Studies - Library, 6:45pm
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - Conference Room, 6:45pm
- ◇ 20Somethings Bible Study - Teller Room, 6:45pm

Regular Scheduled Activities

<b>Sundays</b>	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	5:30pm
7:17 Service	6:45pm
<b>Mondays</b>	
K2 Primary Academy	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
<b>Tuesdays</b>	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
College Bible Study	6:00pm
<b>Wednesdays</b>	
K2 Primary Academy	8:45am
PAW Program	9:00am
Wednesday Night Dinner	5:15pm
Proclamation (youth choir)	5:45pm
Children's Choir	6:00pm
Collide (youth)	6:30pm
Adult Choir	6:30pm
AWANA (children)	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
20Somethings	6:45pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	
MRA (during school year)	8:30am
<b>Fridays</b>	
Chick time at Chick-Fil-A	9:00am
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Men's Coffee Group (Good Day Café, GP)	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for September: 371  
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for September: 139

Financials as of September 18, 2015

Budget Income	\$ 633,317
Budget Expense	\$ (625,188)
Net Budget	\$ 8,129