

Dear Friends,

For the next few weeks, the primary teaching in our chapel services on the Kirkland campus will focus on the Sermon on the Mount. I am excited about this series. Not only is the Sermon the Mount one of the most famous passages of Scripture, and likely the most famous sermon, but it also says so much about who Jesus was and how he led his life. If you are unfamiliar with the Sermon on the Mount, it is found in Matthew, chapters 5-7. It's title describes what Jesus did that day. The Bible says that he went to a "mountainside" (for those of us in the Pacific Northwest, it would have seemed more like a small hill!). Jesus sat down and began to share his heart with his disciples (Matt. 5:1-2). It is likely that there were more than just his twelve closest disciples present that day, as Jesus already had a strong following of people who wanted to hear his teaching.

Glancing over the passage, one can see that this sermon includes several significant topics. It starts with the Be-Attitudes (how we are "to be" as people). Jesus talks about lust and adultery, loving your enemies, how to pray and fast, hypocrisy, and so much more. What made the people of that day so interested in hearing Jesus teach on such topics? An enlightening moment at the end of the sermon helps us to understand. "When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law" (Matt. 7:28-29). It was clear to all that Jesus presented his message with authority far and above that of their teachers of the law. The difference was where the authority came from. The teachers gained their authority through an institutionalized system, and while Jesus also had proper instruction, he obtained his authority through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. In my mind, both are important, but the Spirit is far more effective. Jesus presented himself in a way that touched the hearts his followers. Such authority only comes from a person who has drawn close to God through the work of the Holy Spirit. I am excited about what we will learn throughout this series, but I am most excited that we might encounter the true heart of a Shepherd whose desire is to lead us into greener pastures of life with him by the Spirit. If you are interested in hearing the message but are not in our regular chapels, you can tune in to the [Northwest University podcast](#).

Father, I pray you will help us open our hearts to hear and receive from you through the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. May we not only understand these words, but may your Spirit also give us the strength to live out these powerful teachings for the benefit of your kingdom on earth. In Jesus name, Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

- Mon, October 29** | Chapel: Shane Krumm | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am
- Mon, Oct 29** | REVIVE with Pastor Christina Gilbreath | Butterfield Chapel, 8pm
- Tues, Oct 30** | Courageous Conversations: Cultural Appropriation* | Grey Beatty Lounge, 7pm **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*
- Wed, Oct 31** | Chapel: Destiny Kennedy | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am
- Fri, Nov 2** | Chapel: Pastor Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am
- Fri, Nov 2** | Prayer Training | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 5pm
- Sun, Nov 4** | Chic Chat (women) & FellaShip (men)* | Butterfield Chapel & Argue HSC 231, respectively, **Spiritual Life Credit Offered*
- Mon, Nov 5** | 7&7 Campus-Wide Prayer | Butterfield Chapel, 7am and 7pm

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 Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges