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## The Preface to the Sermon

“And seeing the multitude, He went up into a mountain; and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him; and He opened His mouth and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:1

This chapter and the sixth and seventh chapters are a sermon that Jesus Christ preached upon the mount, the largest and fullest sermon that we have recorded in Scripture, the sermon of Christ himself.

I being solicitous what to pitch upon that might be most for your edification, this took my thoughts: What can be more suitable for a minister of Christ to preach about than the sermon of Christ? And therefore I intend, God willing, if life and strength and liberty continues, to go through this whole sermon of Christ with you. For a minister to preach other men’s sermons is negligence, but for him to preach Christ’s sermon is faithfulness. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, the ministers of God are the ambassadors of Christ, and are to speak unto people as if Jesus Christ spoke unto them in His stead; and so they are to look upon them as coming to them in Christ’s stead, as if Christ were speaking. And if we must preach as if Christ were preaching, what is more suitable than to preach what Christ has preached? This sermon, in these three whole chapters, is a sermon preached by the mouth of the Son of God Himself, of Him who is the wisdom of the Father, who has all the treasures of wisdom in Him, of Him who has been in the bosom of the

Father from all eternity, and knows all His mind, His whole heart, and the counsels of His will concerning man's eternal estate. And it is He who is sent by the Father into the world, designed to this office, to preach His mind and His will unto the children of men.

Oh, what attention is called for, while you are hearing this sermon of Christ repeated to you, and opened and applied unto you!

Oh, we have infinite cause to bless God for the way of knowing His mind by Jesus Christ His Son! The Lord in former times revealed His mind to men several ways; but now, says the apostle in Hebrews 1, "He hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person," etc. Oh, this is the happiness of those who live in the times of the gospel, that God speaks unto them by His Son, that Christ is come from the Father to make Him known unto us; for no man knows the Father but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him (Matthew 11:27). Surely there are great things to be known of the mind of God, seeing the second person in the Trinity is designed by the Father to come to preach His mind to the children of men. If we hear of a friend that has come out of a far country to tell us news there; if the news is of importance and nearly concerns us, and we know that this friend is wise and faithful, and will tell us nothing but what is truth, we flock about him. Sometimes if one comes but from the army after some notable war has been done, and we know that he understands things and is faithful, how greedy are we to be with him and to know what news he has from there! But here, my brethren, we have Jesus Christ coming from God the Father, who knows fully all the mind of His Father, and is sent by the Father into the world to make known to us all those counsels of God that were kept hidden from the beginning of the