

# The Lovely Jesus

Matthew 5:1–12; Luke 6:20–23



I bare you on eagles' wings, and  
brought you unto myself.

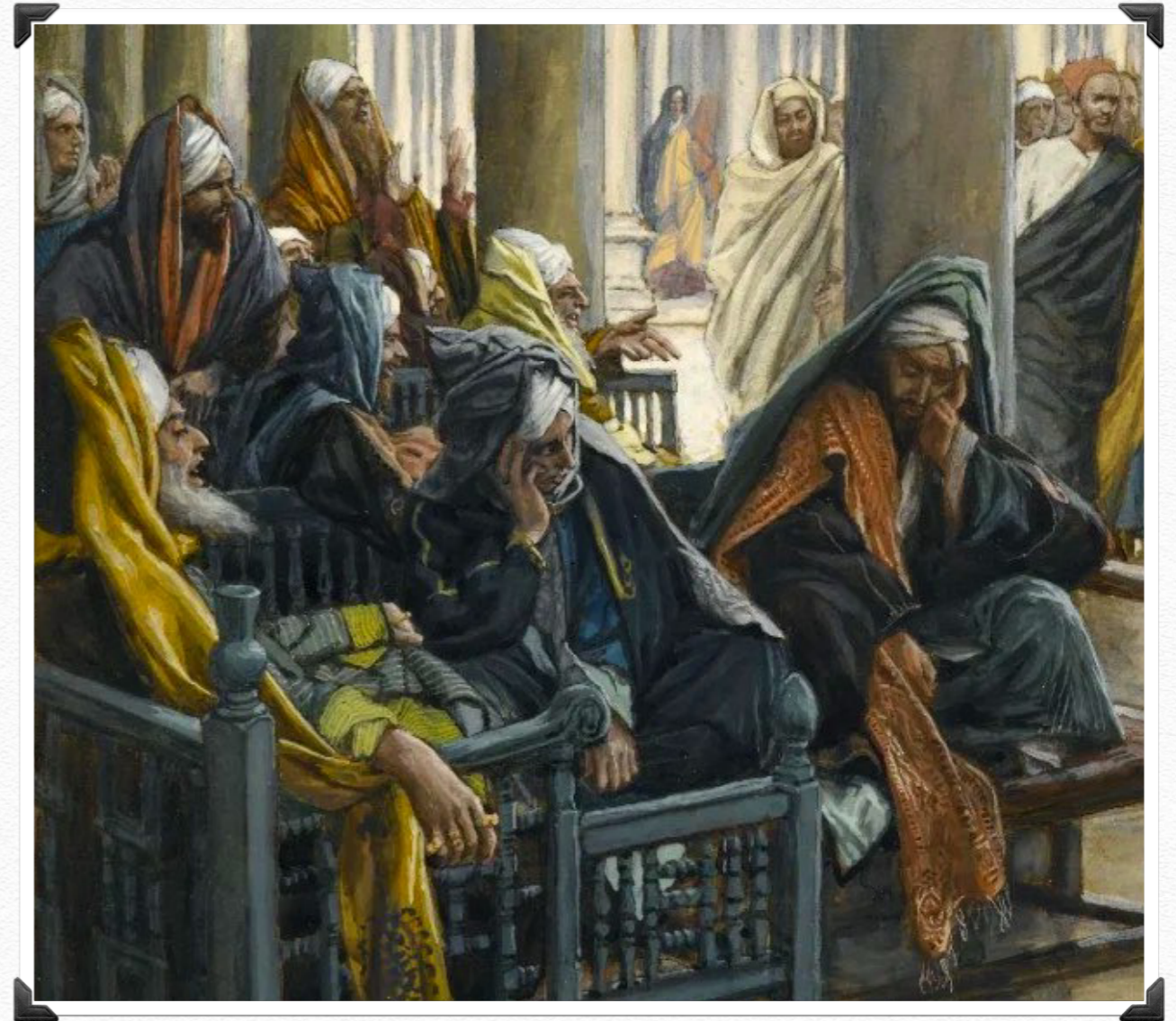
Exodus 19:4



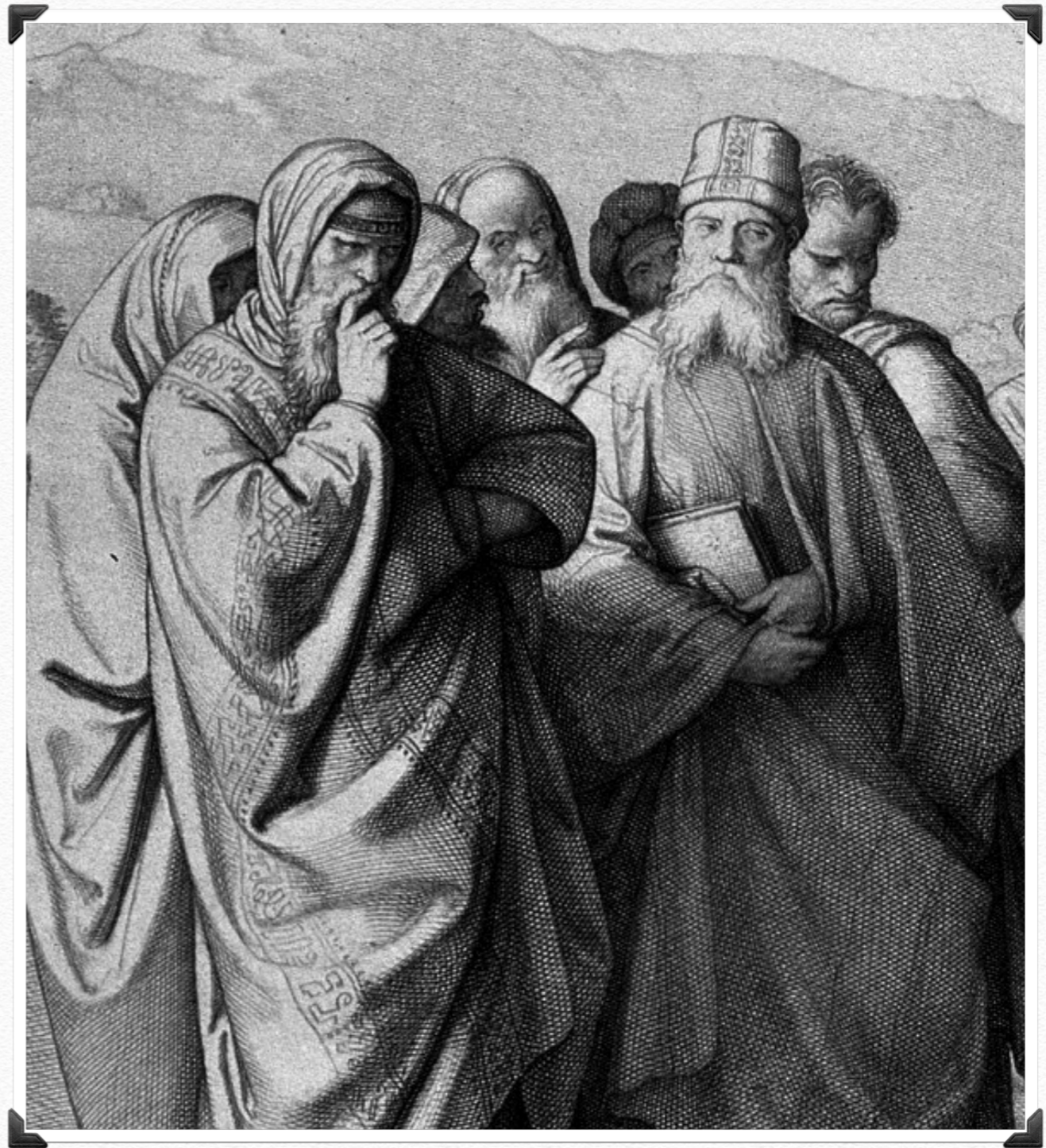
The Lord hath made all *things*

Proverbs 16:4

When the Saviour began His ministry, the popular conception of the Messiah and His work was such as wholly unfitted the people to receive Him. **The spirit of true devotion had been lost** in tradition and ceremonialism, and the **prophecies were interpreted at the dictate of proud, world-loving hearts.** The Jews looked for the coming One, not as a Saviour from sin, but as a great prince who should bring all nations under the supremacy of the Lion of the tribe of Judah. (*MB* 1.3)



Had the teachers and leaders in Israel yielded to His transforming grace, Jesus would have made them His ambassadors among men. . . . But the Jewish leaders would not humble themselves to receive the lowly Teacher from Nazareth. (Ibid., 2.1)



So Jesus left Judea and went to Galilee where he proclaimed the kingdom of heaven was at hand (Matthew 4:17), and where he began to call his disciples.

# Matthew 4:12–25

- ❖ Matthew 4:12—Jesus left Judea and went to Galilee. The people saw great light (v. 16).
- ❖ Jesus preached repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (v. 17).
- ❖ He called Peter and Andrew (v. 18), James and John (v. 21) as disciples in Galilee.
- ❖ Jesus taught in the synagogues, preached the gospel of the kingdom, and healed all manner of sickness and disease among the people (v. 23).
- ❖ A great multitude followed him from Galilee, from Decapolis, from Jerusalem, from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.



# Luke 6:6–19

- ❖ Christ seldom gathered His disciples alone to receive His words.
- ❖ The Sermon on the Mount was given especially to the disciples but spoken in the hearing of the multitude.
- ❖ He ordained the apostles, and then they all went to the seaside. It was early, but the people had already begun to assemble.

- ❖ The disciples' place was always next to Jesus. They sat close beside Him, that they might not lose a word of His instruction. They were attentive listeners, eager to understand the truths they were to make known to all lands and all ages. The crowd felt something was about to happen.

- ❖ The disciples believed an announcement was to be made that the kingdom was soon to be established.
- ❖ The people's hearts were filled of future glory.
- ❖ The scribes and Pharisees looked forward to dominion over the Romans and to possess the riches and splendor of the Roman Empire.

- ❖ The poor peasants and fishermen hoped to hear the assurance that their wretched hovels, the scanty food, the life of toil, and fear of want were to be exchanged for mansions of plenty and days of ease.
- ❖ In place of the one coarse garment which was their covering by day, and their blanket at night, they hoped that Christ would give them the rich and costly robes of their conquerors. All hearts thrilled with the proud hope that Israel was soon to be honored before the nations as the chosen of the Lord, and Jerusalem exalted as the head of a universal kingdom.

And Jesus opened his  
mouth and said:

Blessed *are* the poor in  
spirit: for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.  
(Matthew 5:3)

Blessed *be* ye poor: for  
yours is the kingdom  
of God. (Luke 6:20)



As something strange and new, these words fall upon the ears of the wondering multitude. Such teaching is contrary to all they have ever heard from priest or rabbi. They see in it nothing to flatter their pride or to feed their ambitious hopes. But there is about this new Teacher a power that holds them spellbound. The sweetness of divine love flows from His very presence as the fragrance from a flower.

*(MB 6.1)*



- ❖ Blessed—*makarios*—used in Matthew 5 and Luke 6 and means being fortunate or happy

❖ *Makarios* is also found seven times in Revelation—1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14.

- ❖ Revelation 1:3—Blessed is he that readeth
- ❖ Revelation 14:13—Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord
- ❖ Revelation 16:15—Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments
- ❖ Revelation 19:9—Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper
- ❖ Revelation 20:6—Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection
- ❖ Revelation 22:7—Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book
- ❖ Revelation 22:14—Blessed are they that do his commandments

❖ It is said of God twice—1 Timothy  
1:11; 6:15.

- ❖ 1 Timothy 1:11—The blessed God
- ❖ 1 Timothy 6:15—The blessed and only Potentate

- ❖ Poor—*ptōchós*—destitute, given to begging
- ❖ In Galatians 2:10 and Romans 15:26 Paul commends the collection for the poor or the poor among the Jerusalem saints.

- ❖ Only *they would* that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do. (Galatians 2:10)
- ❖ For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. (Romans 15:26)

. . . in the throng that surrounded Jesus there were some who had a sense of their spiritual poverty. . . . In these souls, Christ's words of greeting awakened hope; they saw that their lives were under the benediction of God.

*(MB 6.2)*



But there were those who thought they “had need of nothing, and they had turned with scorn from the gracious gift. He who feels whole, who thinks that he is reasonably good, and is contented with his condition, does not seek to become a partaker of the grace and righteousness of Christ. Pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give. There is no room for Jesus in the heart of such a person” (*MB* 7.1).

Those whose hearts have been moved by the convicting Spirit of God see that there is nothing good in themselves. They see that all they have ever done is mingled with self and sin. (*MB 7.2*)

Of the poor in spirit Jesus says, "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This kingdom is not, as Christ's hearers had hoped, a temporal and earthly dominion. Christ was opening to men the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness. (*MB 8.1*)

The **kingdom of God's grace** is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love.  
*(MB 108.1)*

Luke 6:20, 24

# James 2:5

They could not comprehend the movements of Jesus.

Already they had been perplexed and troubled that

He made no effort to strengthen His cause by securing the support of the priests and rabbis, that He did nothing to establish His authority as an earthly king.

A great work was yet to be accomplished for these disciples before they would be prepared for the sacred trust that would be theirs when Jesus should ascend to heaven. (*MB 3*)



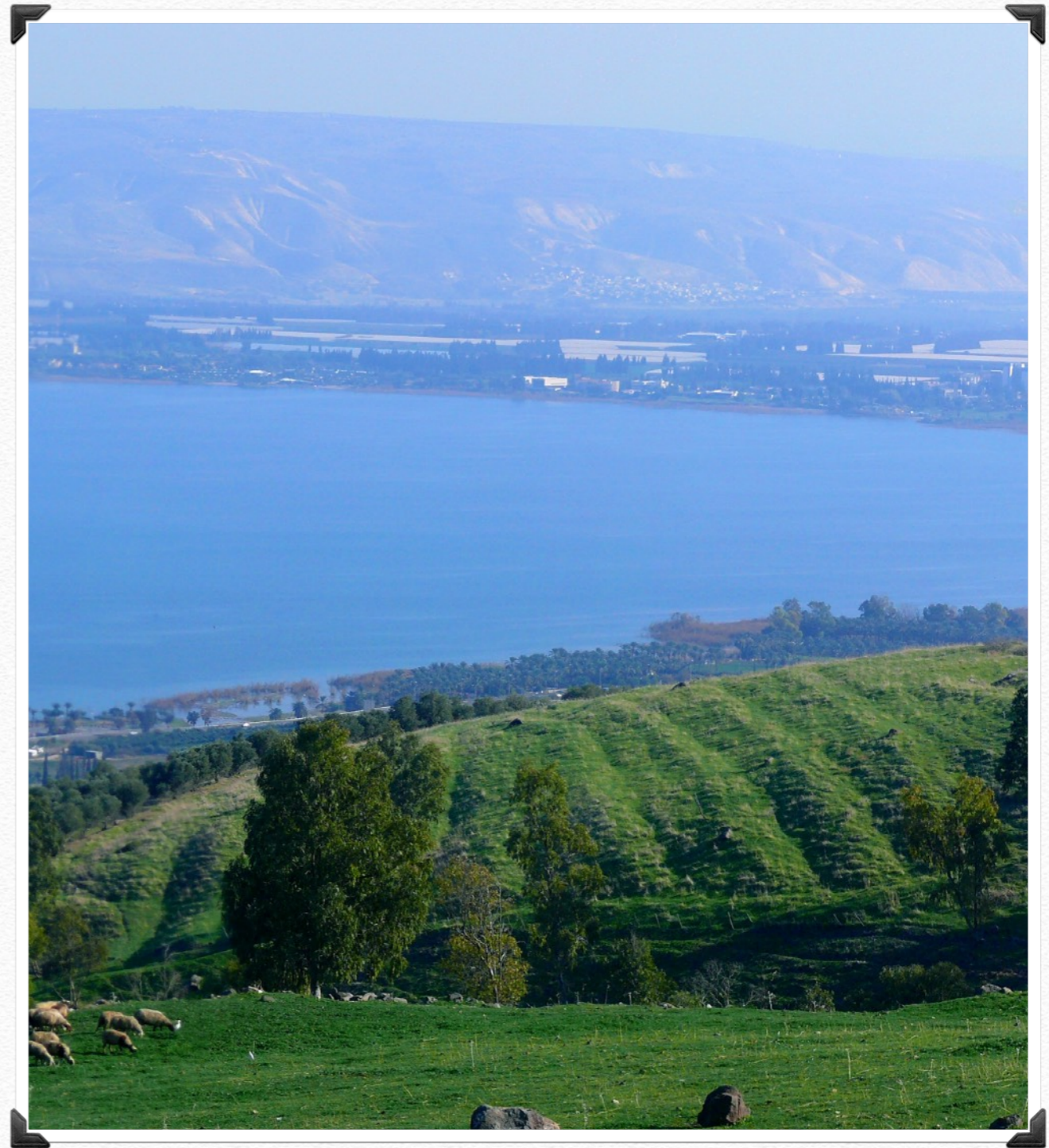
Yet they had responded to the love of Christ, and, though slow of heart to believe, Jesus saw in them those whom He could train and discipline for His great work. (*MB 3*)



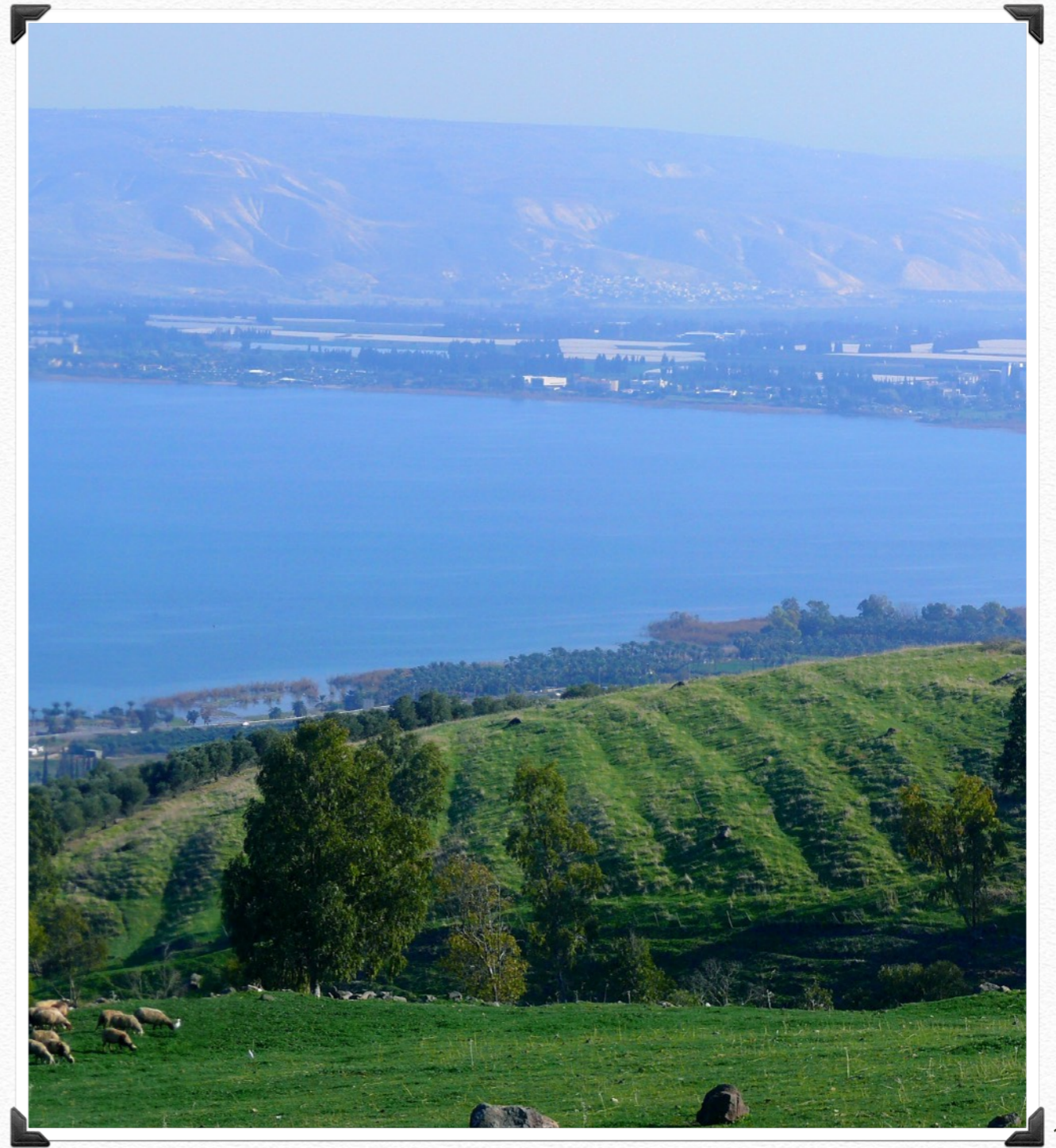


Alone upon a mountain near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus had spent all night in prayer for these chosen ones. At the dawn He called them to Him, and, with words of prayer and instruction, laid His hands upon their heads in benediction, setting them apart to the gospel work.

Then He repaired with them to the seaside, where in the early morning a great multitude had already begun to assemble. (*MB 4*)



Then, as the narrow beach did not afford even standing room within reach of His voice for all who desired to hear Him, Jesus led the way back to the mountainside. Reaching a level space that afforded a pleasant gathering place for the vast assembly, He seated Himself upon the grass, and His disciples and the multitude followed His example. (*MB 4*)



With a feeling that something more than usual might be expected, the disciples had pressed about their Master. From the events of the morning they gathered assurance that some announcement was about to be made in regard to the kingdom which, as they fondly hoped, He was soon to establish. **A feeling of expectancy pervaded the multitude** also, and eager faces gave evidence of the deep interest. (*MB 4*)



Those who are rich and honorable in their own eyes do not ask in faith, and receive the blessing of God. They feel that they are full, therefore they go away empty. Those who know that they cannot possibly save themselves, or of themselves do any righteous action, are the ones who appreciate the help that Christ can bestow. They are the poor in spirit, whom He declares to be blessed. (*MB 7.1*)

Of the poor in spirit Jesus says, "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This kingdom is not, as Christ's hearers had hoped, a temporal and earthly dominion. Christ was opening to men the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness. The **ensign** of the Messiah's reign is distinguished by the likeness of the Son of man. His subjects are the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted for righteousness' sake. The kingdom of heaven is theirs. (*MB* 8.1)

An ensign is a commissioned officer of the lowest rank.

He was 23 and  
commissioned as an  
ensign on the  
battleship USS  
*California* at Pearl  
Harbor.



Navy Ensign Herbert C. Jones.

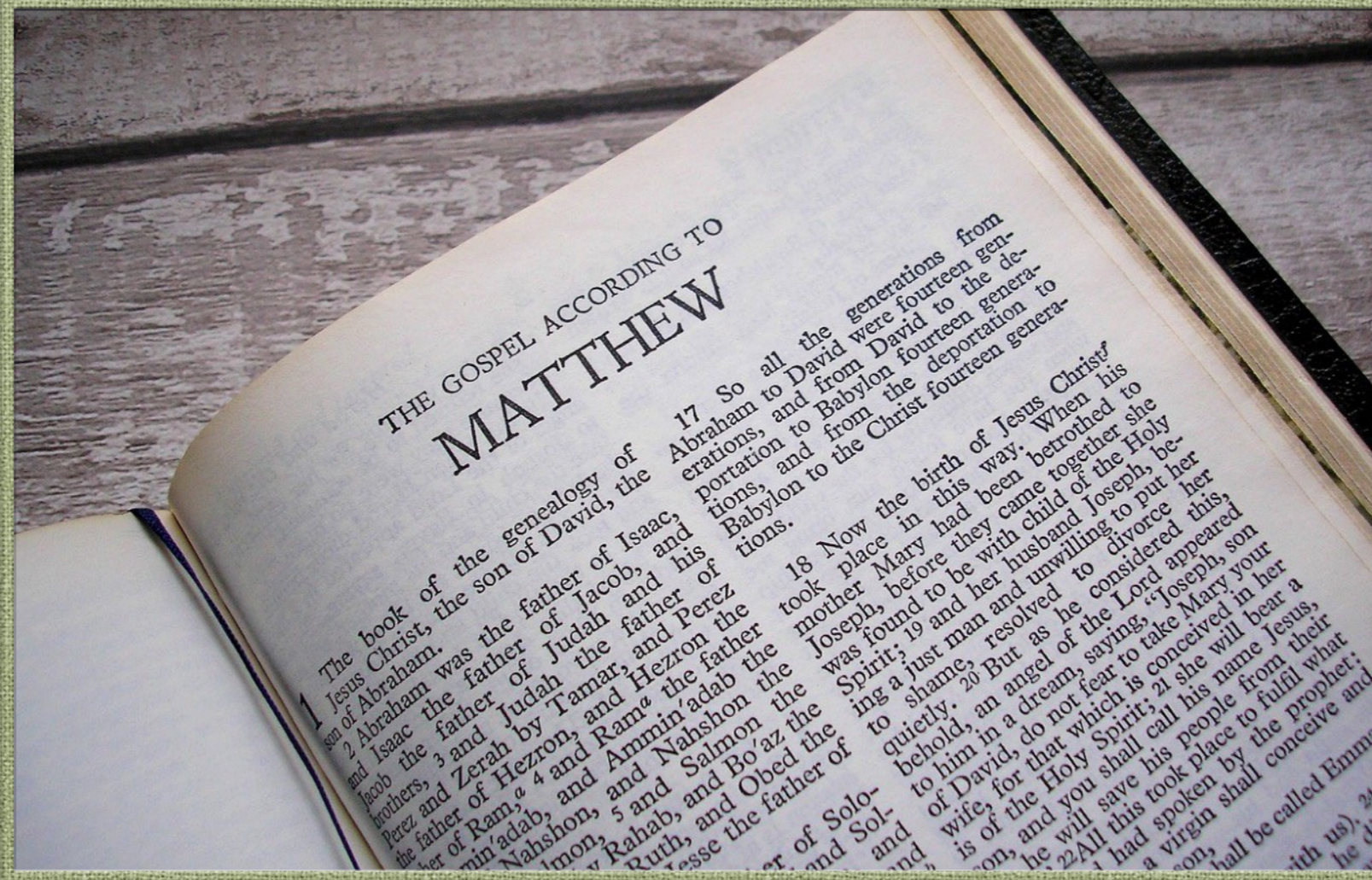








- ❖ 1. Where was this sermon of Jesus given? To whom was it spoken?
- ❖ 2. What disposition or quality of character did Jesus first pronounce a blessing? What did He declare concerning those who possessed it?



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

Matthew 5:3