



Los Altos United Methodist Church

Touching heaven, changing earth with head, heart, and hands

Los Altos United Methodist Church Sermon Discussion Guide: March 3, 2013

Proclaiming the Kingdom: The Mountains - Mark S. Bollwinkel
Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:1-2a, 7:24-29

HEAD

1. Many important events in the life of Jesus occurred on or near the mountains. Name a few. Why do you think this was?
2. Jesus says, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." What does he mean to *hear* his words?
3. Why do you think it was that those in the synagogue and Temple could not hear God through Jesus? How might this be true in a similar fashion today?

HEART

1. Do you only listen to those in authority by today's standards to the point where you may not hear God through someone unexpected? What can we do to be open to hearing God through unexpected means?
2. When Jesus finished speaking to the people about hearing his words, "[t]he crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes." What does this mean to you? Had you been among the crowd, would you have heard God's authority through Jesus?
3. Do you feel like you truly *hear* God? Consider the parable of the sower. Which soil are you? Where have you built your house?

HANDS

1. Is there a special place you go to pray? If not, what can you do to take a long walk with God?
2. Name three things you can do to build your faith on a more solid foundation and live your life truly hearing God through Jesus.
3. How have acts of compassion toward you inspired you to minister likewise to others?