

Graduation is just around the corner, and there will be plenty of young adults making their way into a land of promise, a land of adventure, a land filled with many exciting unknowns. But they are also about to enter the world in a whole new way that has plenty of dangers and snares.

It is the hope of parents and teachers alike that those young adults take the words of wisdom, the teachable moments, the successes and failures they've received and head out with confidence and discernment.

Sadly, many leave homes and schools without being ready. **Heb 5:12-14** reminds us to be people that eat the solid food of the mature, those who "have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" will be successful. (see also **Josh 1:8**)

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, there's the sermon on the mount written down for us (**Matt 5-7; Luke 6**). And in that sermon he starts off with blessings for those that practice what they've been taught, and woe's (or curses) for those that don't.

Ironically, Moses gave a very similar speech before the Israelites headed out to begin a new life in the Promised Land (**Deut 27-28**). He too gave blessings and curses in his speech. What does that tell us? Simply that the message hasn't changed what God wants from his people.

Perhaps the best difference between these two sermons on mountains, is that Jesus was about to go into the world with us, while Moses wasn't able to go with the people. It's a comfort to know that as we face the challenges and temptations of life that we will have our teacher right there with us.

But as we walk with our teacher, we quickly realize that his definition of success and my worldly one, don't really mesh very well. Our teacher walks with us so that we can learn how to live life the way that blesses us and helps us avoid the curses.

Read **Luke 6:20-26**

What does *Deuteronomy* mean?

What do you find the most comforting in Moses' "blessings"? Which one catches your attention? (*Deut 28:1-14*)

What do you find most comforting in Jesus' "blessings"?

How would you explain to someone how the "blessings" Jesus offered were indeed blessings?

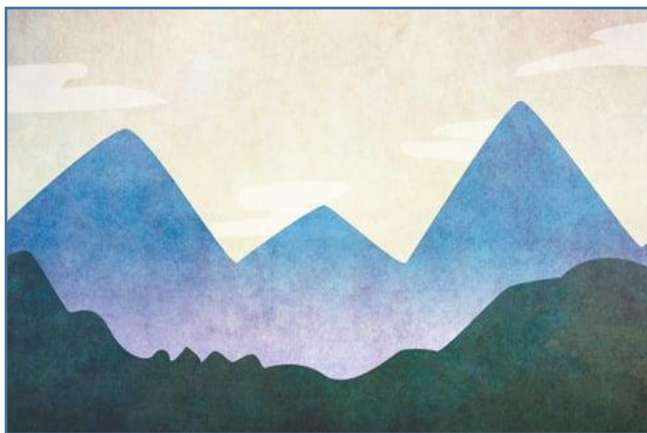
What are some similarities between Moses' and Jesus' sermons?

What are some differences between their sermons? Why?



BLESSINGS CURSES EBAL
 GERIZIM HUNGRY
 JESUS
 MOSES MOUNTAIN POOR

Sermons



On the Mounts