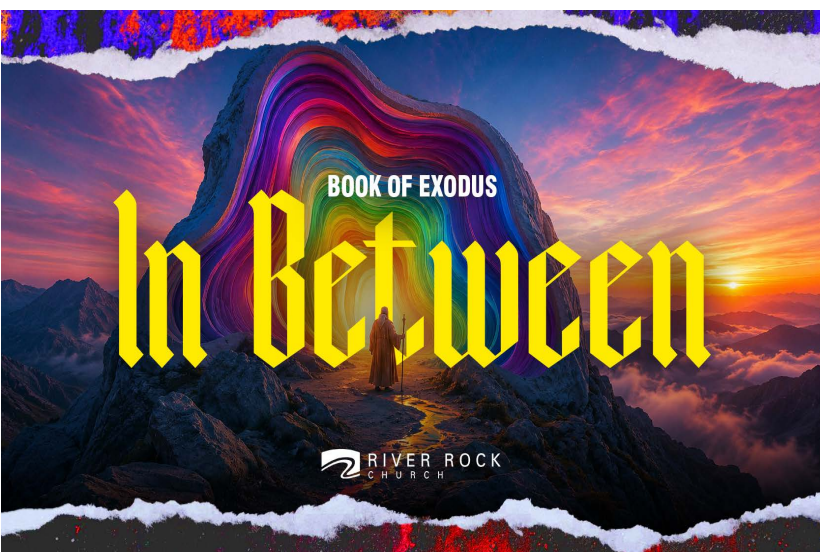


Sept. 13

NEXT STEPS



Surprise The World

"Kingdom
Expectations"

Matthew 5:1–12

Questions to *Dig Deeper*:

1. Our culture often measures blessing by power, comfort, and success. In what ways do you personally feel the pressure to chase these cultural standards, and how does Jesus' vision of the Kingdom challenge that mindset?
2. Reflecting on Dallas Willard's jet pilot analogy—flying upside down without realizing it—where in your own life or in broader society do you see people mistaking an "upside-down" way of living for being "right-side up"?
3. In Jesus' day, people assumed that suffering or illness was a direct punishment for personal sin. How do modern Christians or society still subtly fall into this trap, and how do the Beatitudes counter that narrative?
4. Dallas Willard emphasizes that the Beatitudes aren't commands on how to be blessed, but declarations that God's grace reaches those on the outside. Which of the modern Beatitudes listed at the end of the message resonated with you the most, and why?
5. If living out the Sermon on the Mount is meant to "pleasantly surprise" or spark the curiosity of those around us (rather than ruffle feathers confrontationally), what is one practical way our group or you individually can demonstrate this kind of radical, inclusive grace this week?