

## *The Sermon on the Mount*

Location: A small park in a village on a mountain road in the Appalchian Mountains  
Three attempts have just been made on the lives of our young heroes. Now what?

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Another street crossed the main street that would lead them away from the mountain and forest behind the town. Taking the cross street away from the forest, it soon led to another small road that paralleled the main highway. The parallel road, called View Drive, led in a short distance to a small park with an astounding view. They saw picnic tables, benches, and rest rooms. No one was around. Lorraine needed the rest room. The guys sat at a picnic table and waited. As they looked out from the park, the valley below them was flooded with trees with a bold mixture of exotically beautiful fall colors. It looked like a multicolor blanket. Somewhere in the far distance they could see the smoke from the crashed cars still drifting upward. Lorraine came out shortly and joined them, watching the view with them and saying nothing.

Tom spoke again. "There are a few things we all need to hear."

"Oh my," Ken said, "The sermon on the mount."

"OK", Tom," said Lorraine, "but can you do the loaves and fishes bit first? I'm hungry"

Tom laughed, "Very funny, Lorraine. I needed that. Real soon, Lorraine. We're all hungry. In all probability, those pursuing us think we died in that car. It was rigged with a bomb in case their Plan A failed. Since it was set off remotely, they think they got their job done. Ken and I have cash; but the laptop and snooper kit are gone."

"I've got my purse. Tom, can I call Ginger and let her know we are all right?"

"No, Lorraine. None of us can call or contact anyone. When the news does get out about the car crashes, there will be people who care about you that will think you are dead. There will be obituaries in the newspapers and on television and the Internet, along with memorial services for you. And there's not a thing you can do about it. Anyone you even try to contact will become a target. You will have to put aside, for now, any normal emotional response you may have about that. The only advantage we have right now is that the people who are trying to kill us probably think we're dead and will quit, for the moment, chasing us. There is a consolation. The Church in Sunodia and Seattle is praying for us. They won't stop. Cell phones should be off and stay off."

Lorraine pulled hers out and checked. It was off. Tom continued.

"We're safer now than at any time in the last few days. We're here at a place God's led us to, but we don't know why yet. We are financially secure and healthy. We are not alone."

"Any questions?"

"Yes," from Lorraine. "I came to this party late. Can you fill me in a little bit more?"

Tom looked around to be sure no one else was near, and continued.

“We are under the covering of a church in Seattle, which in turn is part of a network of independent house churches. Our little hidden community has lots of high tech stuff and does a lot of networking using encrypted computers over the Internet, microwave, and satellites. The messages Ken has talked with you about were received from one of those sources.”

“Anything else Lorraine? You’ve been a major help at this point. Major help. Hang in there.”

“Thanks. I needed that encouragement. But what’s your goal?”

“Right now, it’s to decrypt these messages we’ve downloaded from a satellite channel. For the moment, we think they carry a very serious message. Feel free to ask more questions when we are in a secure location. Or ask Ken.”

“You know the verse—‘Romans 8:28. We know that all things work together for good to those that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.’ God is not asleep. He is alive, acting in our world to accomplish His purpose, even as we sit here. The Germans have a word for it—*zeitgestalt*, which translates as ‘timephase’. Within that are moments of opportunity where we have to act. Remember the Israelites when they got to the Promised Land, or more accurately their Promised Time. They didn’t have the vision or courage to go in. So the Israelites waited for an entire generation before another generation rose up and acted on their calling. That window in time where God provides the opportunity to act is called, in the Greek, a *kairos* moment. If we don’t act, it is gone forever. God has provided that moment for us to act and brought us to that opportunity on purpose.”