

# MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

Replacing a nearby structure from the fourth century A.D., the octagonal chapel known as the Church of the Beatitudes was built in 1938 to commemorate Jesus' giving of the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5—7). It is located between Capernaum and Tabgha. The church building contains a beatitude on each of the eight walls. It is traditionally thought that Jesus delivered his sermon there on the hillside (Mount Nahum) that descends to the Sea of Galilee. The Lord often used the acoustics of nature so thousands of people could hear his message. These slopes would have been carpeted with flowers in the springtime, suggesting his illustration of "the lilies of the field" (Mt. 6:28). The active birds in the area may have brought to mind "the birds of the air" (Mt. 6:26). The cities that lit up along the coastline against the pitch black of night would have powerfully conveyed Jesus' message that his disciples must be "the light of the world" (Mt. 5:14).



Church of the Beatitudes



Beatitudes on the Eight Walls Beneath the Dome



Hillside Below the Church of the Beatitudes