

The Sermon On The Mount

Matthew 5-7



Painting by: Carl Bloch
Det Nationalhistoriske Museum, Frederiksborg, Denmark

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Lesson 1 – The Beatitudes

TEXT: Matthew 5:1-5

Please Define:

Beatitude

Mourn (v.4)

Gentle (v.5) [*some have "humble" or "meek"*]

Examine the Text

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit" (v.3)?
2. List 2 examples (with scriptures) of people who were poor in spirit.
3. Why is theirs the kingdom of heaven?
4. What is to be "mourned" (v.4)?
5. How shall they be comforted (v.4)?
6. How shall the meek "inherit the earth" (v.5)?
[The *Jehovah's Witness'* claim this will happen in the 1000 year reign]
7. Name some characters from the Old Testament that exhibited meekness. Provide examples from their lives.

Kingdom

What is the "Kingdom of heaven" (v.3)?

How does this compare to the "gospel of the kingdom" which Jesus was preaching (4:23)?

How do you respond to those who say the Kingdom has not yet been established? Or, as the *Jehovah's Witness* denomination claims, it was established in 1914?

Lesson 2 – The Beatitudes

TEXT: Matthew 5:6-8

Please Define:

Righteousness (v.6)

Mercy (v.7)

Blessed (v.3-11)

Examine the Text

1. Compare physical hungering and thirsting with spiritual hungering and thirsting. Try to use other Bible passages they teach or convey this concept.
2. How will these be "satisfied" (v.6)?
3. Will the "merciful" receive mercy from other men or from God?
4. What does "pure in heart" mean?
5. Is the statement "they shall see God" a promise to the pure in heart (v.8)?
6. Can those who are "pure in heart" understand some of God's motives? Explain your answer.

Pure In Heart

How do these passages indicate we purify our heart?

1 Timothy 1:5

2 Timothy 2:20-22

Titus 1:15-16

1 Peter 1:22

Once a heart is stained, how is purified again? (provide scriptures of the instructions and/or examples)

Lesson 3 – The Beatitudes

TEXT: Matthew 5:9-12

Please Define:

Peace/Peacemaker (v.9)

Persecuted (v.10)

Peacemakers

What peace do we have to make?

Do we have to be a successful peacemaker to please God?

Why will these be called the children of God?

Examine the Text

1. What would the audience have thought of Jesus' point about the peacemaker?
2. What do these passages teach about the King of Peace?
 - A. Colossians 1:20
 - B. Ephesians 2:14-15
 - C. Romans 5:1
 - D. John 16:33
3. Will persecution make us a stronger or weaker believer?
4. How are we persecuted for righteousness sake today?
5. Why is theirs "the kingdom of heaven" (v.10)?
6. Describe the attitude necessary to rejoice and be glad when people say all kinds of evil against you falsely. What temptations creep up on those not diligent?

Lesson 4 – The Similitudes

TEXT: Matthew 5:13-16

Please Define:

The use of salt in the First Century.

Lamp / Lampstand (v.15)

Peck-measure / Basket (v.15)

Examine the Text

1. What characteristics of salt should exemplify the Christian?
2. What characteristics of light are Christians to have?
3. Explain the meaning of verse 14 in regards to the Christian light.
4. The negative implication of verse 15 is that we can hide our light. Why do some do this?
5. Why would some glorify our Father when they see our good works (v.16)?

Let Your Light Shine

What are some of a Christian's "good works"?

Is it possible to physically separate yourself from the world and still influence the world? Is influencing the world merely living your life as an example?

Name some specific relationships in which the Christian should wield influence.

Lesson 5 – Righteousness

TEXT: Matthew 5:17-26

Please Define:

"Jot", "Tittle" (King James v.18)

Righteousness (v.20)

"Raca" (King James v.22)

Reconciled (v.24)

Why would some be called "great in the Kingdom of heaven" (v.19)? How does this relate to what most people believe and practice?

Did Jesus abolish the Law (v.17)?

"You have heard that the ancients were told" (v.21) is a phrase that will be repeated MANY times in the remainder of the sermon. In context, where were people hearing this?

Examine the Text

1. What was Jesus' attitude toward the Old Testament scriptures?
2. What does He mean when He speaks of fulfilling the Law and the prophets?
3. What is meant by exceeding the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees?
4. What phrases in this section of the text suggest that Jesus had authority? To what is Jesus contrasting His authority?
5. What should be our attitude toward our fellow brethren (v.21-24)?
6. List some suggestions that help us to overcome hate and anger against others.

Lesson 6 – Marriage

TEXT: Matthew 5:27-37

Please Define:

Adultery

Unchastity (v.32)

Vow (v.33)

Oath (v.34)

“Whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (v.32).

Is this about any divorced woman?

What is the danger to the righteous Christian who would enter such a relationship?

How does the first half of verse 37 apply to:

Lying

Gossip

Slander

Excuses

Teaching others

Examine the Text

1. How does verse 28 condemn our modern society? What kind of things can cause this today?
2. What does this say about the power of influence?
3. How do verses 28-30 apply to adultery? Is it literal or figurative?
4. Is a “certificate of divorce” necessary, or can we merely be “separated” as many seem to be doing?
5. What is Jesus arguing in verses 34-36 in regards to swearing and oaths?
6. “Make no oath at all” (v.34). Can a person “swear” or “affirm” to tell the truth in court?

Lesson 7 – Radical Love

TEXT: Matthew 5:38-48

Please Define:

Love (v.44) *Greek word "agape"*

Perfect (v.48)

Compare and contrast the attitudes of the world with the attitudes of the disciple about dealing with others.

Can we love our enemies if we don't like them?

What does love require us to do for our neighbors? For our enemies?

Examine the Text

1. Explain the basic principles behind the Old Testament law of "an eye for an eye" (Ex. 21:22-24; Lev. 24:19-20; Deut. 19:15-21).
2. Explain the command "do not resist an evil person". Is Jesus teaching His disciples to never restrain evil in others? Is He forbidding Christians to defend themselves? (See Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Thess. 5:15)
3. Is Jesus teaching a new law in verses 43-44?
4. Who did the Pharisees consider to be their neighbor? Compare this with verses 46-47.
5. God's love is set forth as the standard for the love we are to have for others (v.45, 48). Discuss the nature of God's love and how it is to govern our relationships with others.

Lesson 8 – Religious Hypocrisy

TEXT: Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

Please Define:

Alms (6:1 in the King James Translation)

Hypocrite (6:2)

How do these attitudes of “being seen of men” apply to us in regard to “public worship”?

- A. Song Leader
- B. Class Teacher
- C. Leading a Prayer
- D. Preaching

Attending the assembly can at times be done in order “to be seen of men”. What is the attitude of such a person toward righteousness?

Examine the Text

1. How many times does Jesus say they have their reward in full? What was their reward?
2. What is the reward for doing these things correctly (see v.1)?
3. According to the passage the correct way to do these things is in secret (v.4, 6, 18). Why?
4. What does Jesus condemn in each of these three accounts?
5. Why does God get upset with vain repetitions (v.7-8)?
6. Give three examples of how we can be guilty of “vain repetitions” in public prayer.

Lesson 9 – Teach Us To Pray

TEXT: Matthew 6:9-15

Please Define:

Prayer

Hallowed (v.9)

List some examples of Jesus' prayer life.

Did He find time to pray or make time to pray?

To what does Jesus link our forgiveness (v.12, 14-15)?

Explain this concept in light of 1 John 1:9 which says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

Examine the Text

1. What is meant by "in this way" (v.9)?
2. What is the significance of Jesus teaching us, through His example, to address God as "Father" rather than "Lord", "Jehovah", or some other title?
3. What is meant by "Thy Kingdom come" (v.10)?
4. What is meant by "Thy will be done" (v.10)?
5. What else could we include in the petition "give us this day our daily bread" (v.11)?
6. Explain the statement "do not lead us into temptation" (v.13). God does not tempt man (James 1:13).

Lesson 10 – Loyalty & Trust

TEXT: Matthew 6:19-34

Please Define:

Mammon (v. 24 in the King James)

"Worry" or "take no thought"
(v.25, 34)

What dangers do we face in
possessing much of this world's
goods? (v.19-21)

How do we lay up treasures in
heaven? How does this compare
with the concept of not being able
to earn salvation?

Based on the number of arguments
Jesus makes in verses 25-34 in
comparison to other points, what
significance should this have for us
today?

Examine the Text

1. Is Jesus giving a prohibition against possessing things of this world? What are the "treasures" spoken of in this passage? Explain. (v.19-21)
2. Explain verse 22's "the eye is the lamp of the body".
3. What did Jesus mean by a "single" eye (King James) and an "evil" eye in verses 22-23?
4. Why does Jesus say we should not be anxious about food, drink or clothing?
5. What is meant in verse 25 by "is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing"?
6. Are we then to show NO concern about these things?
7. What should be the believer's main concern?
8. What is the negative statement in verse 30?

Lesson 11 – Judging Others

TEXT: Matthew 7:1-6

Please Define:

Judge (v.1)

Is this verse speaking of God's judgment upon us, or man's judgment upon us?

What attitude are we to have in regard to Christians who commit sin and what motives should influence our actions?

What about our attitude toward those in the world?

Examine the Text

1. What aspect of judging is being forbidden by Jesus (v.1)?
2. In other passages, we are instructed to take actions that require us to "judge" others. Although there are many, consider 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and 1 John 4:1. Explain the differences between the judgment prohibited by Jesus in Matthew 7 and the judgment required in other passages.
3. What qualifications are required for being able to remove a "speck" from a brother's eye?
4. Who is Jesus referring to in verse 6 by "dog" and "swine"?
5. What applications can be made of verse 6 in our life?

Lesson 12 – The Golden Rule

TEXT: Matthew 7:7-14

Is this lesson related to the topic of judgment just before it?

Are the statements in verses 7-8 promises?

How does Christ exemplify the "golden rule" in His life?

Give some modern examples that would fit the examples of verse 22.

Examine the Text

1. Verse 7 tells us to ask, seek and knock. What attitudes must we have when praying?
 - A. Matt. 6:14-15
 - B. James 1:6-7
 - C. James 4:3
 - D. 1 John 5:14
 - E. Luke 11:5-10
2. What will we receive if we ask, seek and knock?
3. Verses 9-11 refer to parents. How can parents be "evil"?
4. Why do we call Matthew 7:12 the "Golden" rule? What about it makes it "golden"?
5. What is meant by: "for this is the Law and the Prophets"?
6. How narrow do you think the way to life is (v.13-14)?
7. What is the emphasis of verse 21?
8. How does verse 21 deny the false doctrine of 'saved by faith only'?

Lesson 13 – Two Foundations

TEXT: Matthew 7:15-29

How do verses 13-14 connect with verses 15-19?

How does a false teacher come to us in “sheep’s clothing”? Explain (v.15).

What “fruits” help us identify the true and false teacher?

What will be the punishment (in this text) for the false teacher?

In Your Opinion

Which portion of Matthew 5-7 was the most beneficial to you?

Which section did you feel you learned the most about?

Which is your favorite portion, or the portion you feel teaches the most?

Examine the Text

1. Compare the two builders in verses 24-27. What are the characteristics of each?
2. What is portrayed in the images of
 - A. The “house”
 - B. The “foundation”
 - C. The “storms”
3. Again, what language is used in verses 24-27 to indicate we are saved by more than “faith”?
4. What foundations are some building upon today?
5. Why were the people amazed at His teaching?
6. Give some examples from the entire sermon (chapters 5-7) that demonstrate Jesus teaching as one having authority.