

JESUS
7. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Matthew 5-7
STUDY AHEAD

Matthew wrote as a Jew to the Jews about the King of the Jews. He put Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount" at the front of his gospel, to show that Jesus was the new Moses, bringing the new Law to the new people of God. It has been called "the greatest sermon ever preached." Begin by reading the sermon's 3 chapters.

1. Matt.5:1-12 The Beatitudes

- These have been called the Be-attitudes.
- The first 4 focus on our relationship with God.
- The second 4 focus on our relationship with others.
- Try to write your own definition of each one:

Poor in spirit

Mourn

Gentle

Hunger/thirst for righteousness

Merciful

Pure in heart

Peacemaker

Persecuted

2. Matt.5:13-16 Salt and Light

- What was Jesus driving at with the salt and light metaphors?
- Why is there a tendency to conceal our faith in Jesus?
- If people *do* notice our faith, *who* should it point them to?

3. Matt.5:17-48 The Higher Law

- Jesus was not nullifying the Laws of Moses. He was getting to the heart issues behind those original laws.
- Look at the 6 examples and find the *heart issue* behind each one.

4. Matt.6:1-18 Giving, Praying, Fasting

- Religious "performance" and the approval of men was a big deal for the Pharisees. (Note Jesus' comment at Matt.23:5-7.)
- What is the repeated phrase (6:4,6,18)?
- On the subject of giving, compare the story in Luke 21:1-4.
- The "Lord's Prayer" (6:9-13) was given as a pattern. What are the key elements in this model prayer?
- On forgiving others, compare Jesus' teaching in Matt.18:21-35.

5. Matt.6:19-24 Treasures in Heaven

- *Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (6:21).*
Why did Jesus put “treasure” first and “heart” second?
- The Jews believed that the “evil eye” was the source of coveting.
How did Jesus affirm that idea here?
- No one can serve two masters. What are the “masters” that we serve today, other than God?

6. Matt.6:25-34 Do not Worry

- What kinds of “worry” was Jesus warning against here?
- What’s the difference between being a “worrier” and being a responsible, conscientious person? For you personally?
- The Father knows what we *need*. How does James 4:3 help us understand the difference between needs and desires?
- Verse 34 is one to memorize. How does it summarize the issues?

7. Matt.7:1-6 Do not Judge

- What does Jesus teach us here about self-awareness?
- Why is it easier to be critical of others than self-aware?
- What is the meaning behind the hard saying in v.6?

8. Matt.7:7-12 Keep on Praying

- Keep on asking; keep on knocking; keep on seeking. This is the force of the verbs in Greek. Why is it important to “keep on ...” when it comes to prayer? Compare Luke 18:1-8 on this idea.
- What did Jesus say about human nature in the first part of v.11?
- The Father’s “good gifts” do not always come to us in the manner or timing we desire. Does that make the Father any less “good?”

9. Matt.7:13-23 True and False Leaders & Followers

- There are 3 major “warnings” in these verses. Can you list them?
- You will know them “by their fruits” (v.20). Yet, the “fruits” can be very deceptive and hard to read (vv.22,23). What does this tell us about being “fruit inspectors” (evaluating other people’s faith/actions)?

10. Matt.7:24-29 Wise and Foolish Builders

- Why is this parable a fitting end to the Sermon on the Mount?
- What’s the real difference between the wise and foolish builders?
- What was the reaction of the crowds to Jesus’ teaching?