



THE **SERMON** ON THE **MOUNT**

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Introduction *The Sermon on the Mount*

"When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying..." Matthew 5:1-2.

By the time Jesus finished teaching in Matthew 7:28-29 it says, *"When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes."*

What did Jesus say that caused such a strong reaction from the audience? What did the crowds mean when they said Jesus taught as one having authority, and not as their scribes? This is what we are going to study and consider this quarter. The Sermon on the Mount never gets old. As we consider who we are to be as kingdom citizens, the Sermon on the Mount should constantly be on our minds. It should be hidden in our hearts.

Prior to class, take the time to read Matthew 5-7 in one sitting. Then answer the following questions in the space below.

1. If someone were to ask you what the Sermon on the Mount is all about, how would you answer?
2. What are some of the challenging teachings in this sermon for you?
3. What might be some of the challenging teachings in this sermon for others who are learning more about Jesus?
4. What questions (if any) did you have after reading the text?

Use the blank space below to right down your thoughts. Be prepared to discuss in class.

Introduction *Table of Contents*

- Lesson #1: *Introduction and Background*
- Lesson #2: “**Blessed are...**” Matthew 5:3-12
- Lesson #3: “**You are...**” Matthew 5:13-16
- Lesson #4: “**Surpassing the Scribes and Pharisees**” Matthew 5:17-20
- Lesson #5: “**But I say to you**” Part #1 Matthew 5:21-30
- Lesson #6: “**But I say to you**” Part #2 Matthew 5:31-48
- Lesson #7: “**When you...**” Matthew 6:1-18
- Lesson #8: “**Do not store up...but store up...**” Matthew 6:19-24
- Lesson #9: “**Do not be worried...**” Matthew 6:25-34
- Lesson #10: “**Do not judge**” Matthew 7:1-12
- Lesson #11: “**Everyone who hears these words of mine...**” Matthew 7:13-29

Lesson 1 *Introduction and Background*

Some Thoughts as We Begin Our Study

Introduction

As we begin our study in Matthew 5-7, it will be good for us to consider the following:

The Preacher

The Place

The People

The Purpose

The Possibility

We will consider these points in this session.

1. ***The Preacher:*** Consider the following passages and what we can learn about Jesus, Matthew 1:1; Matthew 1:18; Matthew 1:23; Matthew 2:3; Matthew 3:17, Matthew 4:23. What other passages in Matthew help us as we consider Jesus?

2. ***The Place:*** Read Matthew 4:23-25. Where is Jesus? In class, we will also discuss how this teaching from Jesus in Matthew 5-7 fits with His teaching in the rest of the book.

3. ***The People:*** Who is listening to Jesus as He teaches?

4. ***The Purpose:*** Throughout this sermon, Jesus used a lot of contrasts. Identify some of these contrasts to identify what Jesus wants His listeners and disciples to do.

5. ***The Possibility:*** The Sermon on the Mount can be intimidating for some. Some may feel that it's not possible for us to really live this. What do you think? How might what we learned about who Jesus is help us as strive to live what He teaches?

Lesson 2 *Blessed Are*

Matthew 5:3-12

Introduction

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

What might be the significance as to why Jesus began His teaching this way?

1. What does the word "Blessed" mean? When Jesus repeatedly says, "Blessed are those..." how do you think the crowd is feeling?

2. Are any of these Beatitudes challenging for you to understand? If so, which ones?

3. Some of what Jesus taught might not seem like blessings. Some might see them as unexpected blessings. Which ones have challenged you and why?

4. Jesus begins with "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." Why do you think this is how His sermon begins?

5. As Jesus began to speak these words, what Old Testament scriptures might have come to mind to those in the crowds?

6. Jesus began with "Blessed". In verse 12, He wrapped up this section with "Rejoice." These blessings and joy should be things we're experiencing NOW! What things can hinder us from experiencing these blessings and joy?

Lesson 3 You Are

Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Jesus says in verses 3-12,
"Blessed are those..." Why does He now say, "You are...?"

1. There are probably more questions when it comes to "salt" and what Jesus is teaching. Do some research and see how salt is used in the scriptures.

2. Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth." What does this mean?

3. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." What's the significance of this as we consider how people view us?

4. Given that we are to be the light of the world, what can we imply about the spiritual state of the world?

5. People in the world are supposed to see our good works. What might these works look like?

6. Jesus says, "You are..." Yet, in verse 16, He also reminds us of who should have all the glory: God. How should this motivate us and help us as we seek to be salt and light?

Lesson 4 Surpassing the Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 5:17-20

Introduction

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

In these verses, Jesus says, "I say to you..." What's the significance of this?

1. Why is Jesus mentioning the scribes and the Pharisees? How might people in the crowd have responded to what Jesus says about the scribes and Pharisees?

2. What did Jesus *not* come to do?

3. What *did* Jesus come to do?

4. The KJV uses the words "jot" and "tittle" in verse 18. What is Jesus emphasizing to His listeners?

5. When Jesus says, "The Least of these commandments," what do you think He means?

6. What do you think Jesus means when He says that our righteousness should surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees? How will this sermon help us toward that end?

Lesson 5 *But I Say To You* Part #1

Matthew 5:21-30

Introduction

"You have heard that the ancients were told..."

"But I say to you..."

Who spoke about what the ancients had been told?

What is the significance when Jesus says, "I say to you..."

In the rest of the chapter, we see Jesus reminding His audience of what they have heard concerning:

Murder

Adultery

Marriage & Divorce

Vows

Revenge

Love for enemies

We will focus on anger and adultery.

1. How will these verses help us to exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees and scribes?

2. What is Jesus correcting? The Law of Moses (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)? Or something else?

3. Did the Law of Moses teach that people could hate their brother as long as they didn't murder him? Read Leviticus 19:17-18 to help you answer this question.

4. When Jesus speaks of people saying "Raca" or "You fool," what point is He making?

5. What was it the Pharisees and scribes had missed in their understanding and/or teaching with respect to adultery, Matthew 5:27-28? Consider Exodus 20:17 as you answer.

6. Why is it that we should take extreme measures to avoid these matter of the heart, verses 29-30? What might this actually look like?

Lesson 6 *But I Say To You* Part #2

Matthew 5:31-48

Introduction

"You have heard that the ancients were told..."

"But I say to you..."

What has surprised you the most from this section of "But I say to you?"

In this lesson, we will consider what Jesus says in Matthew 5:31-48. Read Matthew 5:31-32. What passage is Jesus quoting from in the Old Testament?

What does Jesus teach us about marriage and divorce?

1. How in our marriages can we have greater righteousness than the Pharisees and scribes?

2. What is Jesus seeking to correct in Matthew 5:33-37?

3. In Matthew 5:38-42, is Jesus teaching we can't defend ourselves/families, or is He teaching that we are not to respond with further evil to those who may be evil to us?

4. Read Leviticus 19:18; Exodus 23:4-5. How did the Pharisees distort the Law of Moses? How are we to behave toward our enemies?

5. Explain Matthew 5:48? What does it mean to be perfect?

Lesson 7 When You

Matthew 6:1-18

Introduction

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven."

Why does Jesus give a warning about how we practice our righteousness?

- What is the right way to give?

- What is the wrong way to give?

- What is the right way to pray?

- What is the wrong way to pray?

- What is the right way to fast?

- What is the wrong way to fast?

Lesson 8 *Do Not Store Up...But Store Up*

Matthew 6:19-24

Introduction

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal: for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In this section and into chapter seven, Jesus will give us four, "Do not..."

Do Not...

Store up for yourselves treasures on earth.

Worry (verse 25)

Judge (Matthew 7:1)

Give what is holy to dogs and swine (Matthew 7:6)

1. Jesus speaks about two kinds of treasure. What are they?

2. Why should we not treasure the treasure on earth?

3. If we treasure the treasure on earth, how will this affect us giving to others?

4. Jesus speaks about two types of eyes. What are they?

5. How does this connect to what Jesus says about where we lay up our treasure? Consider Deuteronomy 15:9; Proverbs 28:22; Proverbs 22:9.

6. Jesus speaks of two masters. What point is Jesus making?

Lesson 9 *Do Not Be Worried*

Matthew 6:25-34

Introduction

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

In this section and into chapter seven, Jesus will give us four, "Do not..."

Do Not...

Store up for yourselves treasures on earth.

Worry (verse 25)

Judge (Matthew 7:1)

Give what is holy to dogs and swine (Matthew 7:6)

Three times in this section (verse 25, verse 31, verse 34) Jesus says, "Do not worry." What does the word "WORRY" mean?

1. What's the first question Jesus gives us to consider? What does Jesus want us to learn?

2. What's the second question Jesus gives us to consider? What does Jesus want us to learn?

3. What's the third question Jesus gives us to consider? What does Jesus want us to learn?

4. What's the fourth question Jesus gives us to consider? What does Jesus want us to learn?

5. What's the fifth question Jesus gives us to consider? What does Jesus want us to learn?

6. Do you think we worry more about God providing, or God providing exactly what we want?

7. Instead of worrying, what is it that we should be doing, Matthew 6:33?

8. How should verse 34 impact us today?

Lesson 10 *Do Not Judge*

Matthew 7:1-12

Introduction

Jesus begins this section by saying, "Do not judge." Does this mean we are never to judge? Explain.

What is the manner in which we should judge?

1. What is Jesus teaching us from the illustration in verse 6?

2. Jesus says to Ask, Seek, Knock. In verses 7-8. What exactly in this context are we to be asking and seeking after?

3. Jesus uses an interesting illustration in verses 9-11. How might this bring us comfort and confidence as we Ask, Seek, and Knock?

4. How does verse 12 connect with what we have learned so far in chapter seven?

Lesson 11 Everyone who hears these words of mine

Matthew 7:13-29

Introduction

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

"So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit."

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock."

"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand..."

1. Why does Jesus make these comparisons (two gates, two trees, two houses) as He begins to conclude His sermon?

2. Jesus speaks about two gates. What are they? Where does each gate lead? What gate are most people going to take?

3. In verses 15-20, Jesus speaks about false prophets. Why do you think He does this?

4. How can we recognize false prophets according to verses 16-20?

5. In light of what we've learned, how should we understand verses 21-23?

6. Jesus finishes His sermon in verses 24-27. What does He want us to do?
