



Matthew 5-7

SERMON ON THE MOUNT REVIEW

How can we live the Sermon on the Mount? How can anybody come up to such a standard? We need help and grace! Where can we get it? Here is the answer: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." That is the connection, and we should thank God for it, because standing face to face with this glorious gospel we must all feel undone and unworthy. Those foolish people who think of Christianity only in terms of a little morality which they themselves can produce have never really seen it. The standard by which we are confronted is that found in the Sermon on the Mount, and by it we are all crushed to the ground and made to realize our utter helplessness and our desperate need of grace.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The Outline of the Sermon on the Mount:

- The True Character of a Kingdom Citizen (5:3-16)
- The True Righteousness of the Law (5:17-48)
- The True Practice of Religion (6:1-18)
- The True Condition of Our Hearts (6:19-7:12)
- The True Foundation of a Kingdom Citizen (7:13-27)

The Sermon on the Mount is primarily addressed to the nation of Israel. The Jews were waiting for the Messiah and for His kingdom on earth. Thus, Jesus is describing to them the life of a *kingdom citizen*—one who has submitted to the authority of the King.

Though this sermon is addressed primarily to Israel, it describes the ethic of *all kingdom citizens*—Old or New Testament. To those under the old covenant, it elaborated the righteous requirements of God and confronted people with their need for a Messiah who could save them from their sin. To those under the new covenant, it is a call to live more and more like Jesus, under His kingship, as citizens of His coming kingdom, in this present world.

	Problem	Solution	Motto
PHARISEES	"Sinners"	Legalism	Frown!
SADDUCEES	Status Quo	Liberalism	Flow!
ESSENES	Society	Isolation	Flee!
ZEALOTS	State	Revolution	Fight!
KINGDOM CITIZENS	Sin	Salvation	Follow the Messiah!

*Ever since the Romans arrived on the scene in 64 BC, the Jewish people were divided over how to respond to their rule. The **Zealots**, an ultra-nationalistic group, proclaimed revolution to be God's solution. The **Essenes** withdrew, waiting anxiously for the Messiah to lead a violent overthrow of the Romans. The **Sadducees** practiced a form of cooperation since it was Rome who kept them secure in their position over the temple and over the people. The **Pharisees**, condemning Rome's pagan excesses, viewed the foreign oppressors as God's hand punishing his people for their unfaithfulness to the Torah. The country was in turmoil, each faction longing in a different way for the freedom they desired.*

—Ray Vander Laan

If only two people go to heaven, one will be a scribe and the other a Pharisee. —Jewish Proverb

*"Kingdom of heaven" is used 32x in the NT, only in Matthew. The emphasis of the word "kingdom" (Grk, *basileia*) is on the one who reigns. Thus, in this case, it refers to heaven's reign on earth.*

LIVING THE BLESSED LIFE

Poor in Spirit	<i>I see my own sin</i>	Merciful
Mourn	<i>I am broken over my sin</i>	Pure in Heart
Meek	<i>I have yielded my will to God</i>	Peacemakers
Hunger & Thirst	<i>I seek God and His righteousness alone</i>	Persecuted

31 PRINCIPLES FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. Know who you are in Christ (5:3-12).
2. Live who you are in Christ (5:13-16).
3. Make the Word of God a priority in your life (5:17-19).
4. Do not put your trust in your own righteousness (5:20).
5. See the value of every human life (5:21-22).
6. Seek reconciliation with others as you are able (5:23-26).
7. Guard your eyes and your heart from sexual lust (5:27-30).
8. Guard the beauty of sexual faithfulness in marriage (5:31-32).
9. Say what you mean and mean what you say (5:33-37).
10. Overcome evil with good (5:38-42).
11. Love your enemies and pray for their salvation (5:43-47).
12. Be holy as your heavenly Father is holy (5:48).
13. Stop trying to impress people with your "spirituality" (6:1-18).
14. Give with a generous and cheerful heart (6:3-4).
15. Pray simply, humbly, and honestly to God (6:9-13).
16. Forgive others as Christ has forgiven you (6:14-15).
17. Live your life with an eternal perspective (6:19-23).
18. Do not put your trust in money and possessions (6:24).
19. Stop worrying (6:25-30).
20. Seek God's kingdom first and foremost (6:31-33).
21. Take one day at a time (6:34).
22. Stop having a critical spirit toward others (7:1-2).
23. See your own sin before confronting the sin of others (7:3-5).
24. Be wise in how you approach those resistant to truth (7:6).
25. Pray, pray, pray for God's help in your relationships (7:7-11).
26. Treat others how you want to be treated (7:12).
27. Trust in Christ alone for eternal life (7:13-14).
28. Do not be fooled by smooth-talking false teachers (7:15).
29. Examine the character of those you listen to (7:16-20).
30. Do not put your trust in "signs and wonders" (7:21-23).
31. Build your life on the Rock of Jesus Christ (7:24-27)!

Blessed. Grk, *makarios*, "happy; fortunate; well-off." Used by the Greeks to describe the life of the gods or of the wealthy who were seen as free from problems and thus happy. Biblically it refers to the one who is favored by God and experiencing His blessings.

This is true. We are all beggars.
—Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The first step to obtaining the righteousness of God is to renounce our own righteousness.
—John Calvin (1509-64)

The man who truly realizes his position face to face with God is the man who must of necessity be merciful with respect to others.
—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

It is my conviction that our heavenly Father says the same to us every day: "My dear child, you must always remember who you are."
—John R. W. Stott

To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine.
—Alfred Plummer (1822-83)

You never so touch the ocean of God's love as when you forgive and love your enemies.
—Corrie ten Boom

If you look at the history of the Church throughout the centuries you will find that false and counterfeit Christianity has always been a hindrance to, and the greatest enemy of, true spirituality... We should be much more concerned about the state of the Church herself than about the state of the world [1 Cor. 5:9-13].
—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

MATTHEW STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 8:1-22

Read through Matthew 8:1-22 several times this week. Pray for God to open your eyes and speak to your heart as you read and study each day.

Day One: Observation. Read Matthew 8:1-22 to get an overview of the passage. Mark or underline key words and phrases as you read. This passage has three miracles (8:1-4; 5-13; 14-17) with a concluding call to follow Jesus (8:18-22). Write down 3-5 observations that you can make from each miracle. Who was the person healed? What was the need? How was Jesus made aware of the need? What did Jesus do? What was the result? What do you learn about Jesus in this passage?

Day Two: Meditation. Read Matthew 8:18-22 several times. Jesus not only has authority over disease and sickness but He also has authority over our lives. Write down all the observations you can see in 8:18-22. Reflect on the scene. What do you learn about following Jesus?

Day Three: Interpretation. Go to blueletterbible.org and type Matthew 8 into the Search box. Click on 8:9. Find the word “authority” and click on Strong’s #1849. “Authority” is a key word in Matthew (cf. 7:29; 21:23-27; 28:18). How does Jesus demonstrate His authority in this chapter?

Click on 8:10. Find the word “marveled” and click on the Strong’s #2296. Write the Greek word and its definition in your journal. This word is used 8x in Matthew (8:10, 27; 9:8, 33; 15:31; 21:20; 22:22; 27:14). Read these other passages. Who “marvels” in these passages? What makes 8:10 unique from the rest of these passages?

Day Four: Devotion. Read William Barclay to get a better understanding of the cultural background of Matthew 8. It is particularly helpful with 8:21-22. www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dsb/matthew-8.html

Day Five: Application. Re-read Matthew 8:1-22. What verse stands out to you? What does God want you to know, desire, and do in response to His Word? What excuses have you made for not following Jesus wholeheartedly? Take time to write your thoughts in your journal.