

The
Sermon
on
the
Mount

*A Fourteen Week Study
in Matthew 5-7*

The Sermon on the Mount

The First Week

Day One | Matthew 5:1-4

What does it mean to be blessed? What is it about the “poor in spirit” that makes them blessed? What does this tell you about the heart of God? How have you experienced the comfort of God during difficult times?

Day Two | Matthew 5:5-6

How might this verse comfort you in light of what Jesus says in Matt. 11:29?

What is it about our meekness that actually makes us blessed?

What are ways that you can develop a hunger and thirst for righteousness? Where specifically can you ask God to give you a greater desire for this in your life?

Day Three | Matthew 5:7-8

What larger idea is Jesus sharing when speaking about giving mercy? Who in your life is in need of mercy? How does having a pure heart help us to know God? What might be preventing you from having a pure heart? Pray about it.

Day Four | Matthew 5:9-10

What is it about peacemakers that make them sons of God? Are there any areas where you struggle to be a peacemaker? What are some examples where righteousness led you to be persecuted? What are the differences between a *peacemaker* and a *peacekeeper*? Pray together to ask God for His strength during times of weakness.

Day Five | Matthew 5:11-12

Who or what do you fear when it comes to speaking up or living out your life for Jesus? How might John 6:26-35 and John 14:18 comfort you during those times? Share how having a reward in heaven either comforts you or seems “far off”. Pray together asking God to reveal how you struggle and make this a comfort in your life.

Group Question: Do you have a strong desire for a deeper relationship with Jesus? What could ignite that desire or help you to pursue a deeper relationship with Him?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

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The Second Week

Day One | Matthew 5:13

What does it mean to be the salt of the earth? Based on verses 3-11, where are some areas you have seen growth in your walk? How does a transformed life by Jesus lead to us being more salty? What might an example look like of a Christian who is not salty?

Day Two | Matthew 5:14

What does it mean to be a light to the world? Where in your life do you shine as a light to others? Describe a time you were a light to someone. What is the importance of our light being visible to others?

Day Three | Matthew 5:15

Are there areas in your life where you hide your light under a basket? What are some reasons for this? Take time to pray the Lord would help us place the light on a stand for others to see.

Day Four | Matthew 5:16

How are our good works a display of the light in us? Describe a time you saw the light of Jesus in the life of someone else. Did that encourage you in your walk with the Lord? Why do we do good works on earth?

Day Five | Matthew 5:13-16

What do salt and light have in common? How can people see the glory of God in the good works that we do? Read John 1:1-18. What are some ways we see the light of Jesus displayed in our lives?

Group Question: What area of your character is God challenging you to address at this time? What would progress in that area look like?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Third Week

Day One | Matthew 5:17

Explain what Jesus is saying in this verse. How did Jesus come to fulfill the law? How has Jesus' perfect obedience and fulfillment of the law impacted your life? Why would some people want to see the law & prophets abolished?

Day Two | Matthew 5:18

Verse 18 points to the importance of every word, every letter of God's word having significance and meaning. Is God and His word the most important authority in your life? Who/What has authority in your life above God's word?

Day Three | Matthew 5:19

What role does the Law (the commandments) serve in our lives as modern day Christians? How do you avoid becoming legalistic while following the commands God has laid out in the Bible? Describe how Christ's death freed you from religion.

Day Four | Matthew 5:20

How does the righteousness that Jesus offers differ from the righteousness that we see with the Pharisees and scribes?

Was there a time in your life that you allowed the “pursuit of righteousness through religion” to overshadow your pursuit of Jesus and the righteousness that He offers?

Day Five | Matthew 5:17-20

Christ came to fulfill the Law. Knowing this truth, have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are there areas of your life that you are trying to pursue perfect righteousness through your own efforts? If yes, what are those areas?

Group Question: What relationship outside of church are you cultivating so that you can share Gospel truth with that person? How can we pray for that?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Fourth Week

Day One | Matthew 5:21

What makes murder such a horrible sin? What is the broader impact of it?
When He says “You have heard that it was said”, what is Jesus referring to?
What do you think of as the worst sin that you could commit?

Day Two | Matthew 5:22

What is Jesus saying here about anger and insults?
What causes you to get angry? Do you feel justified in that anger?
Is there someone that you have insulted or spoke harshly towards? What could you do to make things right or reconcile with them?

Day Three | Matthew 5:23-24

Why is it important to reconcile before making an offering? What is the modern day equivalent of this? Do you know of anyone that has something against you? If so, is it in your power to restore the relationship or make things right?

Day Four | Matthew 5:25

Why do you think Jesus puts so much emphasis on reconciliation & restoration?

Why would it be bad to appear before a judge in this situation?

How does Jesus set the ultimate example for us in this area?

Day Five | Matthew 5:26

Why is justice so important to Jesus?

What causes you concern when you think about standing before God in the final judgment? What gives you cause for hope at the last judgment?

Group Question: What is the most important step of obedience that God wants you to take right now? How can our group pray for and support you with that?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Fifth Week

Day One | Matthew 5:27-28

By the definition that Jesus gives, would you be guilty of adultery? Where are you at in your journey of obedience in the area of lust? When we rationalize by saying “It was just my private thoughts, it didn’t affect anyone else” - why is that an invalid excuse?

Day Two | Matthew 5:29-30

According to Jesus, how serious should we take sin?
Without literally plucking out your eye or cutting off your hand, what are some practical actions you could take to eliminate sin in the area of lust?
Why do you think Jesus speaks so strongly in this area of lust?

Day Three | Matthew 5:31-32

What is your understanding of the Biblical stance on divorce? How did this instruction help to protect women in this time? What impact does divorce have on community & family? What limits does Jesus place on His forgiveness for those who repent?

Day Four | Matthew 5:33-35

What is inherently broken about the idea of making an oath on something?

Can you describe a time when you struggled to keep your word?

Why is truth and integrity so important to Jesus?

Day Five | Matthew 5:36-37

What is Jesus trying to teach us here about making oaths and keeping our word?

How does keeping our word relate to our Christian witness?

How has this passage challenged or convicted you? What will you do in response?

Group Question: Who is at the top of your prayer list for salvation or for repentance and turning back to Jesus?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Sixth Week

Day One | Matthew 5:38-39

Have you ever taken revenge against someone who wronged you? What was the result? Why doesn't an "eye for an eye" approach work? How does the instruction to turn the other cheek reflect the Gospel? Can you describe a time that you turned the other cheek? Why is it so difficult to do?

Day Two | Matthew 5:40-42

How do you feel about these instructions? Do they seem unfair? What is the deeper heart issue that Jesus is addressing here? Where do you see the Gospel on display in these instructions?

Day Three | Matthew 5:43-45

Who do you find most difficult to treat with love? In what way does loving our enemies reflect the heart of God? Why do we find it so difficult to love those that we view as enemies?

Day Four | Matthew 5:46-47

In what way does your life look different from the lives of those who don't know Jesus?
Can you describe a time when you showed love to someone who was undeserving?
What opportunities exist in your life to show love to someone as a Gospel witness?

Day Five | Matthew 5:48

Why would Jesus say that we must be perfect when He knows it is impossible for us?
How does your imperfection lead you to greater dependence on God?
Why should we try to be perfect if we know that we can't accomplish it in this life?

Group Question: Do you feel defeated in any part of your life? How might Jesus bring you freedom from that feeling?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Seventh Week

Day One | Matthew 6:1

How motivated are you by expectation of rewards, either earthly or heavenly?
Does this mean we should always act anonymously or in secret? Why or why not?
Can you describe a time when you did a good thing but you did it for selfish reasons?

Day Two | Matthew 6:2

What would “sounding the trumpet” look like in today’s culture?
What is your philosophy on giving to those in need? How do you do it?
What reward would you expect from God if you give in a way that is not seeking earthly praise?

Day Three | Matthew 6:3

What is the main idea that Jesus is trying to communicate here? How would you give in a way where your right hand doesn’t know what the left is doing? Is it better to give with the wrong intentions or not to give at all? Which one will God honor?

Day Four | Matthew 6:4

How aware are you, on a daily basis, that God sees and knows everything that you do? Can you describe a time when you were disappointed or angry because you didn't get the credit you deserved? What are some ways that you can regularly remind yourself that God's praise is all that matters and all that you need?

Day Five | Matthew 6:1-4

Does God care more about the amount that we give or the attitude of our heart? Why is this topic such a challenging one for so many of us? Has reading this passage led you to think about how you give? If so, what changes are you planning to make in the way that you think about or practice giving?

Group Question: What habit, practice or activity is the most helpful in connecting you to Jesus in a real way? How could you do more of that?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Eighth Week

Day One | Matthew 6:5-6

How important is location and environment to you when you pray?

How do you pray differently when praying in front of people publicly as compared to your private prayers that no one but God hears? What, if anything, is different?

Day Two | Matthew 6:7-8

What sort of empty phrases do people heap up when they pray today?

Who taught you to pray? What sort of prayer models have you seen or observed?

If God already knows what we need, why should we pray and ask Him?

Day Three | Matthew 6:9-10

Why is it important to remember that God is in heaven? What does it mean for His name to be “hallowed”? What would change in our world if God’s Kingdom came and His will was done? What would change in you? What can you do to move towards that obedience today in a practical way?

Day Four | Matthew 6:11-13

What are the biggest needs that you are currently praying about? How do you feel about inviting God to forgive you in the same way that you have forgiven others? Can you describe a time that God delivered you from evil or kept you from temptation?

Day Five | Matthew 6:14-15

What role does forgiveness play in applying the Gospel to our lives ?
What do you find most difficult about forgiveness?
Can you describe a time that you truly and fully forgave someone who had wronged you? How did it feel? What was the result?

Group Question: What do you believe is the most important thing that God wants you to do or to focus on in this season of your life?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

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The Ninth Week

Day One | Matthew 6:16

Why would hypocrites look gloomy when fasting? What is their motivation?

Have you ever done a fast? What was the experience like?

What reward do the gloomy hypocrites receive? Why isn't that good?

Day Two | Matthew 6:17-18

What is the purpose of fasting? Do you believe that we should be fasting in this present

time? How does it relate to our salvation by grace? How public should our fasting be?

What is the reward that the Father would give to those who fast in this way?

Day Three | Matthew 6:19-21

What do you treasure the most? How is laying up treasure in heaven different from

laying up treasure on earth? When you think about heavenly treasure, what comes to

mind? What can you do to make sure that your heart is set on heavenly things?

Day Four | Matthew 6:22-23

What does it mean that your eye is the lamp of your body?

In a spiritual sense, what makes our eyes healthy or bad?

What things do you do to keep your eyes and your heart pure?

Day Five | Matthew 6:24

Have you found this to be true in your life - is it possible to serve two masters?

Why isn't it possible to serve both God and money?

In what areas of your life does money hold the greatest influence?

How would you describe the proper relationship that we should have with money?

Group Question: Have you been self-conscious, self-pitying or self-justifying this week? How might you apply Gospel truth to free you from that mindset?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Tenth Week

Day One | Matthew 6:25

What are the things that you are most anxious about in this season of your life?
How does anxiousness or worry affect your everyday life? What is your honest
reaction to this command from Jesus? In what ways is life more than our basic needs?

Day Two | Matthew 6:26-27

What are some ways that God has provided for your needs in the past?
What makes it difficult to trust that God will provide for you in your present situation?
What positive benefits come from anxiety and worry?

Day Three | Matthew 6:28-30

How do you make the distinction between things you want & things you need?
How does our worry and anxiety relate to the level of our faith?
How content are you in this season of your life? What do you need to turn over to
Jesus today?

Day Four | Matthew 6:31-33

Why is it reassuring to know that God has knowledge of all of our needs?
What does it look like in your life to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness? What is one way that you can intentionally do that this week?
What things will be added to us if we seek His kingdom first?

Day Five | Matthew 6:34

Why is it so easy to worry about the future? How do you know the difference between when you are wisely planning for the future and when you are anxiously worrying about it? Can you describe a time when you worried about something that never actually occurred? What is your biggest challenge with letting go of worry?

Group Question: Have you given the Bible time to speak to you this week? What did that look like or what could it look like in this next week?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Eleventh Week

Day One | Matthew 7:1-2

Describe a time when you felt judged by someone? Why do we react so strongly when we feel like we are being judged? What is the reason that is given here for why we should not judge others? What is one area of your life or one relationship where God is calling you to be less judgemental?

Day Two | Matthew 7:3

Why is it so much easier to see the flaws in others but not in ourselves?
What is the biggest sin issue that you are wrestling with in this season of your life?
How does it impact our witness for Jesus when we act in hypocritical ways?

Day Three | Matthew 7:4

Can you describe a time when your own sin made it hard to help someone else?
How does sin limit & hinder our ability to minister to others?
What is this passage saying about the way that we should address someone else's sin?

Day Four | Matthew 7:5

How do we take the plank out of our own eye? Can you describe a time when you had to address a specific sin issue in your own life? How did you address it? What was the result? How did it change the way that you related to the people around you?

Day Five | Matthew 7:6

In your own words, what is Jesus saying in this verse? How do you know when someone is unwilling to hear or receive the truth? Can you describe a time when you were in that situation? How could you pray right now for someone you know that has a hardened heart towards God? Will you continue to pray for them this week?

Group Question: Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I going to do about it?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

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The Twelfth Week

Day One | Matthew 7:7-8

How do you tend to think about the relationship between your prayer and God's activity in your life? What types of things do you think Jesus is referring to when He says to ask, seek & knock? How do you decide when something is "worth praying about"? What keeps you from taking your requests & desires to God in prayer?

Day Two | Matthew 7:9-10

Describe a time that you received something that was not what you asked for. What impact did it have on your relationship with the person who gave it to you? What are some of the ways that you care for and provide for your family and loved ones?

Day Three | Matthew 7:11

What are some ways that your parents blessed you? What were some areas where they fell short or could've done better? Why are we born with a nurturing & protective instinct for our family? In what ways does that reflect God's nature?

Day Four | Matthew 7:12

Why is this phrase known as the Golden Rule? Why do you think this part of Jesus' message is still so culturally popular and respected to this day? How are the Law & Prophets fulfilled in this commandment?

Day Five | Matthew 7:13-14

How do you feel about these verses? Are they troubling or reassuring to you? What does the narrow gate represent? Why don't more people choose the narrow gate and the narrow path? How do you know which path you are on today?

Group Question: In week 5, you shared the name of the person at the top of your prayer list for salvation & repentance. How are they doing? Any new developments?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Thirteenth Week

Day One | Matthew 7:15

What has your personal experience been with false prophets? What does that term bring to mind? How might a false prophet appear in “sheep’s clothing” today? How would you determine if a leader or Pastor at your church was a wolf?

Day Two | Matthew 7:16-20

What is the good fruit that you would look for to identify a teacher or leader as good or bad? What fruit in your life demonstrates to you that you are on the right path? How would you describe the relationship between sin and faith? If you are a follower of Jesus, how do you explain sin that has continued following your salvation?

Day Three | Matthew 7:21

Why isn’t it enough to simply call Jesus Lord? Why is obedience necessary? What would you say to someone who believes that everyone will go to heaven? How do we know if we are doing God’s will? How can we know God’s will?

Day Four | Matthew 7:22

How can someone do mighty works in the name of Jesus and fail to enter the kingdom?

What do you think was missing in the lives & works of these people?

How does this verse make you think or feel about the works that you have done?

Day Five | Matthew 7:23

Why didn't Jesus know these people? What does it take to be known by Jesus?

What do you find most disturbing about this passage?

In what sense are these people "workers of lawlessness"?

What needs to happen for you to feel confident that you will spend eternity in heaven?

Group Question: What is the greatest temptation that you are faced with in this season of your life? How are you doing in resisting it?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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The Last Week

Day One | Matthew 7:24

Why is it important to hear & to do the words of Jesus?

What are some of the words of Jesus from this study that you find most difficult to do?

Why would someone want to build their house on rock? How does that relate to building your life on the teachings of Jesus?

Day Two | Matthew 7:25

What are some trials (rain, wind & floods) that have come into your life? How did your relationship with Jesus impact the way that you handled those trials? How does this passage correct the wrong idea that obedient Christians won't face trials?

Day Three | Matthew 7:26

Why isn't it enough to hear the words of Jesus? Does reading your Bible make you holy? Why is it foolish to build your house on sand? How is failing to obey Jesus like building on sand? What is the next step of obedience that Jesus wants you to take?

Day Four | Matthew 7:27

How can you tell if someone is building their life on the rock or on sand?
What makes the fall of the house great? How do you avoid a similar fall?
Why are we tempted to be impressed by the size of someone's "house" rather than looking at its foundation? How can you know that you have built on the rock?

Day Five | Matthew 7:28-29

What do you find to be most astonishing about the sermon on the mount? What gives the words of Jesus authority and power in your life? What opportunities are available to you in this season of your life to help others to hear & obey the words of Jesus? What is the next step of action He is calling you to take?

Group Question: What is the most significant thing that you have learned in this study? Who do you know that needs to hear that truth? Will you share it with them?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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