

The Sermon on the Mount

By Christopher M. Gallagher



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Personal Letter:

Greetings!

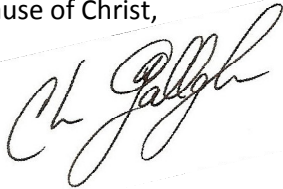
I hope this study guides finds you doing well in Christ today! This study guide is provided for you to assist you in your spiritual growth based on the teachings of Jesus Christ

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) were powerful words to the disciples of Jesus and everyone else gathered at the feet of Jesus on that day! His words challenged their thinking and lives for a greater purpose – God’s Purpose! The words of Jesus on the mountain still hold challenges for followers today. His words will transform our lives for God’s purpose, if we will apply them and allow them to work in our lives.

I wish you great growth as you use this study guide. May the words of Jesus provide you comfort, challenge and powerful growth.

Thanks for taking a moment to use this study guide. Fell free to contact me for further information by emailing me at chris@preacherspen.org.

Because of Christ,



Chris Gallagher

There have been many resources consulted in the preparation of this study guide. I have done my best to note each resource; but if there is one I have overlooked, let me know. I wish to give credit to whom credit is due.

In preparing this study guide, I used two versions of the Bible: the NKJV and the ESV. I also used the Logos Bible Software to search and find texts. It became my concordance. You may check out the Logos Software at <http://www.logos.com>.



Introduction:

A Brief Class Introduction

Purpose of the Class:

The purpose of this class is to bring each student's life into the mindset of Jesus and make application to the teachings on the Sermon on the Mount in the current age.

Plan of the Class:

The plan to achieve the purpose is to examine the teaching of Jesus in the time Jesus presented them, study the background information and discuss the challenging thoughts while placing them into today's society.

From the Beginning

The Sermon on the Mount begins before Matthew 5. It begins in the beginning.

- Christ was in the beginning. (John 1.1-3; Genesis 1.1, 26)
- Christ was prophesied, foretold. (Isaiah 7.14; 53)
 - Also note: Deuteronomy 18.18-19 and Acts 3.22-23
- The prophecies of Christ were being fulfilled. (Luke 1.26-38; John 1.14)

Recent Events of Christ's Life

Understanding the recent events leading up to the Sermon on the Mount help to bring greater meaning to Christ's words.

- The baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3.13-16)
- The temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4.1-11)
- Jesus began His earthly ministry. (Matthew 4.12)
- Jesus calls His disciples. (Matthew 4.18)
- Multitudes began following Jesus. (Matthew 4.23)
 - Notice. Christ met a physical need, which opened many doors.

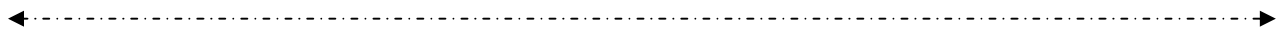
Interesting Study Topic:

- Is Matthew 5-7 the same events of Luke 6.20-26?

Matthew 5.3

One Word with Great Meaning

- The word “blessed” does not mean that one is blessed of God; instead it is associated with the word for happy.
 - Being blessed by God is continuously through the Scriptures.
- Happiness involves attitude!
 - Jesus begins by defining where attitude must be.
- The same word occurs in Psalm 1.1.



“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

(Matthew 5.3, NKJV)

- What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
 - It has to do with your attitude.
 - Your spirit involves your emotions and actions. (1 Kings 21.14)
 - See the example in Matthew 18.1-4.
 - "To be poor in spirit is to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners, and have no righteousness of our own; to be willing to be saved only by the rich grace and mercy of God" (*Barnes*)
 - You must be convicted and convinced of your own spiritual poverty.
 - “Be merciful to me, a sinner.” (Luke 18.13)
 - “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4.6)
- What is the opposite of being “poor in the spirit?”
 - Would the opposite be proud at heart?
 - Remember the God resists the proud. (James 4.6)
 - What about the pride of life? (1 John 2.15-17)
 - Pride stops one from seeking God. (Psalm 10.4)
 - Pride leads to ruin. (Proverbs 16.18)
 - See the example of the Pharisee of Luke 18.9-14
- “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
 - Another way to render this part of the verse may be, “The kingdom of heaven consists of these.”
 - The words “kingdom of heaven” also mean “kingdom of God,” as they occur in the other gospels.

Matthew 5.4

Quick Review:

- One Word with Great Meaning
 - The word “blessed” does not mean that one is blessed of God. Instead it is associated with the word for happy.
 - Happiness involves attitude!
 - Jesus begins by defining where their attitude must be.
 - The same word occurs in Psalm 1.1.

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“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

(Matthew 5.4)

Interesting Note - See Isaiah 61.1-2

- Why would those who mourn be happy?
 - What does it mean to mourn?
 - Mourning is sorrow which pierces the heart accompanied by audible crying.
 - The word “mourning” carries the idea of great sorrow.
 - V. P. Black said, “What we laugh at or what we weep over indicates our values of life.”
 - When does a Christian mourn?
 - Christ mourned at the death of a loved one. (John 11.35)
 - Paul wept for the church. (Acts 20.31)
 - Paul cried to see a dear friend. (2 Timothy 1.3-4)
 - James 4.9
 - Could this mourning be a result of one’s own sinfulness?
 - Consider King David in Psalm 51.
 - See 2 Corinthians 7.10
- How will they be comforted?
 - There cannot be comfort without any sorrow.
 - The true comfort is found in Christ. (Matthew 11.28-30)
 - Notice: The ability to be comforted takes action – “Come to Me...”
 - The comfort of heaven. (Revelation 21.1-4)

Matthew 5.5

Quick Review:

- “Blessed” means happy.
- Jesus begins with the attitude of those around him.
- At the end of Jesus’ discourse, the multitudes will be amazed by the words of Jesus. (Matthew 7.28-29)

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“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

(Matthew 5.5)

Take note of Psalm 37.11

- What does it mean to be meek?
 - Meekness may be defined as an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward people, springing from a recognition that God is in control.¹
 - This word may also be translated humble.
 - Do not confuse meekness with weakness.
 - Meekness is gentleness and humility resulting from one’s own spiritual poverty. ***Take note of Zephaniah 2.3***
 - Meekness can be one’s conscious decision.
 - Meekness is called “disciplined strength.”
 - Weakness is due to a lack of physical strength and/or lack of courage.
 - Whom do you think of when you think of meekness?
 - Consider Moses (Numbers 12.3)
 - Take note of the actions of Moses in Exodus 32.19-20
- How will the meek inherit the earth?
 - This same phrase is used in Psalm 25.13; 37.9
 - Could it be the new earth discussed in 2 Peter 3.10-13?
 - This new earth is talking about heaven.
 - Could it be discussing the earth now?
 - This could be the result of putting the kingdom first. (Matthew 6.33)
 - It could be the meek enjoy things more even though they have less. (Ecclesiastes 5.19-6.2)
 - Psalm 37

¹ Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. 1995. *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*. Rev. ed. of: Nelson's illustrated Bible dictionary.;Includes index. T. Nelson: Nashville

Matthew 5.6

Quick Review:

- “Blessed” means happy.
- Jesus begins with the attitude of those around him.
- At the end of Jesus’ discourse, the multitudes will be amazed by the words of Jesus. (Matthew 7.28-29)

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“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

(Matthew 5.6)

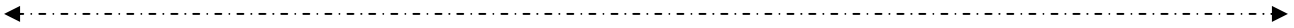
Take note, Jesus uses two of the basic human instincts to progress His message and spiritual benefits.

- What is righteousness?
 - Could righteousness be defined as “that which is upright toward God?”
 - Luke 1.6
 - Righteousness is used in reference to Christians. (Matthew 25.37,46)
 - Psalm 119.172
- What does it mean to hunger after righteousness?
 - Psalm 42.1-3
- What does it mean to thirst after righteousness?
 - Psalm 42.1-3; Isaiah 55.1,2
- How will the hungry and thirsty be filled?
 - The righteousness sought can only be found in Christ. (Philippians 3.8-9)
 - The promise of “being filled” is only to those of intense hunger and thirst.
 - This word for filled brings the meaning of complete fulfillment.
 - A. T. Robertson – The word for filled means to feed or fatten cattle.
 - Was Paul filled?
 - “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.” (Philippians 3.7)
 - Philippians 3.7-9
 - “...for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...” (Philippians 4.11)
 - Can you be filled as Paul?

Matthew 5.7

Quick Review:

- “Blessed” means happy.
- A person’s attitude determines how high they will go.



“Blessed are the merciful, for they have obtained mercy.”

(Matthew 5.7)

- What is mercy?
 - Mercy is to show pity.
 - Mercy includes the idea of compassion. (Proverbs 14.21)

- How is mercy described?
 - Great (Isaiah 54.7)
 - Sure (Isaiah 55.3)
 - Abundant (1 Peter 1.3)
 - Tender (Psalm 25.6)
 - New every morning (Lamentations 3.22, 23)

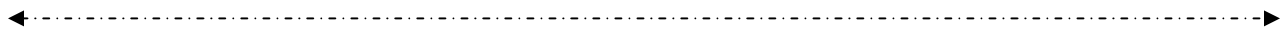
- What about God’s mercy?
 - God is rich in mercy. (Ephesians 2.4)
 - Saving mercy (Titus 3.5)
 - Found with forgiveness (Psalm 51.1)

- How do you receive mercy?
 - Mercy is received in salvation. (1 Corinthians 7.25)
 - Mercy is practiced. (Romans 12.8)
 - Mercy gives us a reason for hope. (Jude 21)
 - (Revelation 1.5,6)
 - (Romans 5.9)

Matthew 5.8

Quick Review:

- Attitude determines altitude!
 - (Isaiah 40.31)
 - “It is hard to soar with the eagles when you are living with the turkeys.” (*Unknown*)
 - Is your attitude Christ-like? (Philippians 2.3-10)
 - Since attitude problems are heart problems, where is your heart? (1 Samuel 13.14)
 - How is your attitude toward doing what Jesus says? (John 2)
 - Have you learned to be content? (Philippians 4.11)



“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

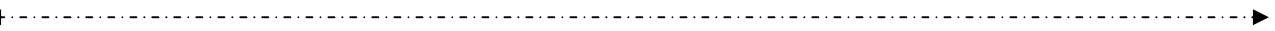
(Matthew 5.8)

- What does it mean to be “pure in heart?”
 - The Greek word for pure, “*katharos*,” means pure as in being cleansed. (Vine’s)
 - Strong’s thoughts on the word “*katharos*:”
 - Physically – purified by fire, in a similitude, like a vine cleansed by pruning and so fitted to bear fruit.
 - In a levitical sense – clean, the use of which is not forbidden, imparts no uncleanness.
 - In an ethical sense – free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt, free from every admixture of what is false, sincere genuine, blameless, innocent, unstained with the guilt of anything.
- How can you be pure?
 - Where do you allow your mind to travel?
 - Meditate (Philippians 4.8)
 - Make the Bible your primary focus for meditation. (Psalms 1.2)
 - In other words, “Hold the word of God in your heart until it has affected every phase of your life...this is meditation.”
- What does it mean to see God?
 - Have you ever tried to imagine what it would be like to see God?
 - (Revelation 4.3)
 - Remember, God is a spirit. (John 4.24)
 - Some children have a somewhat realistic view of God.
 - John writes in Revelation of the purity of God.

Matthew 5.9

Quick Review:

- Attitude determines altitude!
 - (Isaiah 40.31)
 - “It is hard to soar with the eagles when you are living with the turkeys.” (*Unknown*)
 - Is your attitude Christ-like? (Philippians 2.3-10)
 - Since attitude problems are heart problems, where is your heart? (1 Samuel 13.14)
 - How is your attitude toward doing what Jesus says? (John 2)
 - Have you learned to be content? (Philippians 4.11)



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

(Matthew 5.9)

- What is peace?
 - Philippians 4.7
 - 2 Corinthians 13.11
 - 2 Timothy 2.22

- What is a peacemaker?
 - Could these people be making an effort to be at peace with all men? (Romans 12.18-21)
 - Could they help others to be at peace with God? (Romans 5.1; Ephesians 6.15)
 - The wicked are not known by peace:
 - Isaiah 48.22; 59.8

- How are you a peacemaker?
 - Have you made peace between you and God? (Romans 5.1)
 - The middle wall of separation has been broken down. (Ephesians 2.14-16)

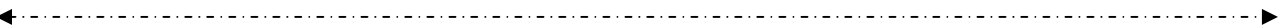
- How are they called “sons of God?”
 - Are you called a son (child) of God? (1 John 3.1-2)
 - Do we exhibit the trait of children of God? (Psalm 34.14)

Matthew 5.10-12

Quick Review:



“Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?”²



“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

(Matthew 5.10-12)

- What is persecution?
 - (2 Corinthians 11.23-29)
 - It means to be reviled, reproached, and slandered falsely.
 - The tense of the verb may be meant as permissive persecution:
 - “Who have allowed themselves to be persecuted or those who have endured persecution.”

- Why were they persecuted?
 - They were persecuted for the sake of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 5.10)

- What is the attitude to be toward persecution?
 - Rejoice and be exceedingly glad because ...

- Who is going to be persecuted?
 - (2 Timothy 3.12)

- “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
 - Another way to render this part of the verse may be, “The kingdom of heaven consists of these.”

²The New King James Version. 1996, c1982 (2 Co 11:23). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Matthew 5.13-16

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”³
(Matthew 5.13-16)

The Text:

- What are the attributes of salt?
 - Salt heals, cures and preserves.
 - What should happen to salt when it loses its flavor?
 - Can the saltiness be restored?

- What are the attributes of light?
 - Light repels darkness.
 - How bright is a city set on the hill?

Application to Your Influence:

- How are members of the church salt?
 - How do members of the church heal?
 - How do members of the church cure?
 - How do members of the church preserve?
 - How do members of the church lose their saltiness?

- How are members of the church light?
 - How do members of the church shine?
 - Where does the light come from?

- Philippians 2.14-15

³The New King James Version. 1996, c1982 (Mt 5:13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Matthew 5.17-20

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”⁴

(Matthew 5.17-20)

The Text:

- What is the difference in destroying and fulfilling?
 - To destroy means to destroy utterly, to overthrow completely.
 - The word fulfill means to fill out, expand, complete.
 - Christ fulfilled the law. (Galatians 3.15-18)
 - Christ brought a changing of the priesthood, thus a changing of the law. (Hebrews 7.12)
 - See also Hebrews 8.6-13; Jeremiah 31.31-34
 - The law was temporary. (Galatians 3.19; Ephesians 2.15; Hebrews 7.12)

- The jot and the tittle
 - A jot is the smallest letter of the alphabet.
 - In Greek it is the “iota,” in Hebrew the “yod.”
 - A tittle is the smallest stroke in a Hebrew letter.
 - The smallest letter and the smallest stroke of a letter would not pass away until the law was fulfilled.
 - These verses show that every letter of the Scriptures is greatly important

- The Scribes and Pharisees
 - One’s righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.
 - The Pharisees were known to say and do not. (Matthew 23.1-4)
 - They were known to do things to be seen of men. (Matthew 23.5-7)
 - They were known to neglect parts of the law. (Matthew 23.23-24)
 - They were known to be lovers of money. (Luke 16.13-15)

⁴The New King James Version. 1996, c1982 (Mt 5:17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Matthew 5.21-32

Six Much Needed Christian Ethics:

Justice (Matthew 6.21-26)

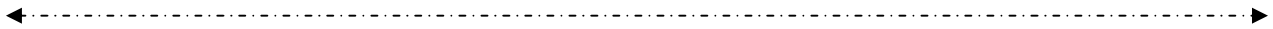
Purity (Matthew 6.27-30)

Lasting Marriage (Matthew 6.31-32)

Honesty (Matthew 6.33-37)

Service (Matthew 6.38-42)

Love (Matthew 6.43-48)



Questions:

- What are ethics? / What are morals?
- What determines Christian values?
 - The determining factor must be truth.
 - Does your personal opinion determine Christian values? (Leviticus 10.1,2; Malachi 1.13)
 - Do your feelings (your emotions) determine Christian values? (2 Samuel 11)
- What price will you pay for the standard of morality?
 - Will you sell everything to find the kingdom? (Matthew 13.45-46)
 - Will you count the loss of house, family, friends, etc. excellent for the knowledge of Jesus? (Philippians 3.8)
 - “Buy the truth and sell it not.” (Proverbs 23.23)
- Will you accept the standard of morality?
 - If the truth shows your mind in error, will you change?
 - If the truth shows your actions in error, will you change?
 - “The truth shall set you free.” (John 8.32)

The Text:

- Justice and the follower of Christ (Matthew 5.21-26)
 - Notice the specific language: “...without a cause...”
 - Was Jesus angry in the temple?
 - Was Paul angry with Peter in Galatians 2?
 - Notice the worship relationship involved in human relations.
- Purity and the follower of Christ (Matthew 5.27-30)
 - Notice the specific language: “...looks at a woman to lust...”
 - Was Jesus serious in His terms of avoiding sin in verses 29-30?
- Lasting marriage and the follower of Christ (Matthew 5.31-32)
 - The only reason for divorce –sexual immorality.
 - See Matthew 19.1-9 for more on this subject.

Matthew 5.33-40

Six Much Needed Christian Ethics.

Justice (Matthew 6.21-26)

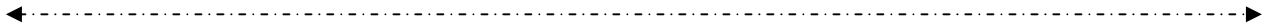
Purity (Matthew 6.27-30)

Lasting Marriage (Matthew 6.31-32)

Honesty (Matthew 6.33-37)

Service (Matthew 6.38-42)

Love (Matthew 6.43-48)



The Text:

Matthew 5.33-37

- Jesus discusses the relationship righteous people have with each other and the words each person lives by.
 - To study this question further, it helps to understand the cultural and background of the people to whom Jesus is speaking.
 - *“What Christ is forbidding here is the flippant, profane, or careless use of oaths in everyday speech. In that culture, such oaths were often employed for deceptive purposes. To make the person being victimized believe the truth was being told, the Jews would swear by “heaven,” “earth,” “Jerusalem,” or their own “heads” (vv. 34–36), not by God, hoping to avoid divine judgment for their lie. But it all was in God’s creation, so it drew Him in and produced guilt before Him, exactly as if the oath were made in His name. Jesus suggested that all our speech should be as if we were under an oath to tell the truth (v. 37).”⁵*

Matthew 5.38-39

- Jesus teach on the principle of retaliation and our relationship to the harmful.
 - This teaching was not only taught by Jesus but practiced by him as well. (Matthew 27.28-31)
 - What is Jesus teaching regarding self-defense?
 - What is Jesus teaching about our relationship to people harming us?

Discussion Questions on the Texts:

- Does Jesus teach we should not take an oath in court?
- Does Jesus teach we should not defend ourselves?

⁵John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed.* (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Mt 5:34.

Matthew 5.41-48

Six Much Needed Christian Ethics:

Justice (Matthew 6.21-26)

Purity (Matthew 6.27-30)

Lasting Marriage (Matthew 6.31-32)

Honesty (Matthew 6.33-37)

Service (Matthew 6.38-42)

Love (Matthew 6.43-48)

The Text:

Matthew 5.40-42

- Jesus deals with relationships to others regarding humbleness and the way followers let their lights shine.
 - Taking a tunic but giving a cloak (Matthew 5.40)
 - Not stopping at the minimum but going to the maximum. (Matthew 5.41)
 - Giving to help (Matthew 5.42)

Matthew 5.43-48

- Quite possibly, the hardest step for some to take is to love your enemies.
 - Bless those who curse you. (Matthew 5.44)
 - To good to those who hate you. (Matthew 5.44)
 - Pray for those who spitefully use you. (Matthew 5.44)
 - Pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5.44)
 - Remember the happiness in persecutions? (Matthew 5.11, 12)
- Jesus gives them lessons so they may be sons of the Father. (Matthew 5.45)
- God watches the good and the evil. (Matthew 5.45)
- Will loving your enemies make you perfect? (Matthew 5.48)
 - **That you may be sons of your Father in heaven** means “that you may be like the Heavenly Father who displays His love without discrimination.”⁶
 - In the context of 5.43–48, it seems to mean that Jesus’ followers are to be as mature or perfect as God in the ways that they love. God does not lower the standard to accommodate our sinfulness. Rather, He gives us the power to keep His righteous standard. Thus, He says, “Be holy, as I am holy.” And He chose us to “be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph. 1.4).⁷

⁶Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (Mt 5:45-47). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

⁷Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (Mt 5:48). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

Matthew 6.1-15

The Text:

Public Display of Righteousness

- What are righteous actions?
- What does a public display of righteous actions prove?
- Is there a reward for a public display of righteous actions?

Jesus' Words Concerning Righteous Works

- "Do not do your charitable deeds before men..." (NKJV)
- "Do not do your alms before men..." (KJV)
- "Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men..." (NIV)
- "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men..." (NIV)
- "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people..." (ESV)
- Jesus does not want his followers to do their actions before men to be seen by them.
 - Notice Matthew 6.1-4; 5-8; 16-18

Rewards for Public Display of Actions

- Their reward would not be from God the Father. (Matthew 6.1,2,5,16)
- Why would God not reward them for righteous actions?

Rewards for the Secret Actions

- Their Father will reward them openly. (Matthew 6.4,6,18)
- Why would God only reward for secret actions?

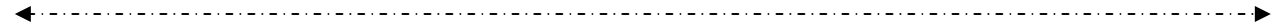
How to Pray:

- Notice: Jesus is teaching his disciples and followers this prayer, he is not praying it.
- "Our Father in Heaven" – Suggests our relationship with God.
- "Hallowed be your name" – Holy and reverend is God's name. (Psalm 111.9)
- "Your Kingdom come" – God's kingdom is the church. (Matthew 16.18-19)
- "Your will be done..." – This demands self-denial and exalts God's will.
- "Give us this day..." – Acknowledges our dependence on God. (James 1.17)
- "Forgive us our debts as ..." – God's grace is extended to us and we extend it to others. (Matthew 18.23-35; Matthew 7.1-2)
- "Lead us not into temptation..." – We are not led by God to do evil. (James 1.13) God has promised to deliver us. (1 Corinthians 10.13)

Matthew 6.16-18

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

(Matthew 6.16-18)



Discussion Questions:

- Why is fasting such a personal topic?
- What concepts of fasting have you been taught in your life?
- Why isn't fasting taught widely in the church?

The Text:

Matthew 6.16-18

- Jesus uses a powerful word in this passage; the word "when."
 - Since Jesus uses this word, does He expect His followers to fast?
 - If so, when?
- Regarding fasting, Jesus places a significance on the outward appearance of the individual.
 - The Negatives:
 - "Do not be gloomy like the hypocrites."
 - "They disfigure their faces."
 - "They have their rewards."
 - The Positives:
 - "Anoint your head."
 - "Wash your face."
 - "Your Father will reward you."

More Regarding Jesus and Fasting:

- Jesus and Fasting
 - Take special note of Acts 1.1.
 - Jesus fasted for forty days (Matthew 4.1-9; Luke 4.1-2)
 - Jesus taught fasting (Matthew 6.16-18)
 - Jesus answered question about fasting (Matthew 9.14-17; Mark 2.18-22; Luke 5.33-39).
 - Jesus taught the combined power of prayer and fasting (Matthew 17.14-21; Mark 9.14-29).

Matthew 6.19-34

Discussion Questions:

What is the number #1 fighting point in a marriage?

1. What is one of the top worries of seemingly every American?
2. Why do people worry about money?

The Text:

- Matthew 6.19-21
 - What happens to material possessions?
 - Is Jesus saying that his followers should not save money?
 - “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the sinner’s wealth is laid up for the righteous.” (Proverbs 13.22, ESV)
 - “For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.” (2 Corinthians 12.14, ESV)
 - Why should your treasure be in heaven?
- Matthew 6.22-23
 - How does your eye affect your body?
 - It has been said that, “No muscle of your body can relax if your eye is uncomfortable.”⁸
- Matthew 6.24
 - “No man can serve two _____.” Why?
 - To what two masters was Jesus referring?
- Matthew 6.25-34
 - The words “do not worry” mean do not be anxious. What does it mean to be anxious?
 - Jesus discusses the three necessities of life, which are:
 - _____
 - What does Jesus say will happen if you place the kingdom first?
 - What does tomorrow hold?

⁸Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (Mt 6:22-23). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

Matthew 7.1-6

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to judge or to be a judge?
2. In light of Matthew 7.1, 2, how does John 7.24 work in the lives of Christians?
3. What is right judgment?

Introduction:

- Matthew 7.1 is one of the most, if not the most, mentioned passage on judging in the Bible.
- The key to understanding “judge not, that you be not judged” is to examine the topic of judging in the entire Scriptures.

The Text:

- Matthew 7.1-2
 - Understand, Jesus is not asking you to overlook right and wrong:
 - Disputes among believers should be settled before church members who make the decision (1 Corinthians 6.1-8).
 - Christians are to bring wrong actions into the light of the gospel and the church (Matthew 18.17; 1 Corinthians 5.9-13)
 - Church discipline involves making a discernment between good and evil (2 Thessalonians 3.6-15; Romans 16.17-18).
 - Christians must determine teachers of good and teachers of evil (Matthew 7.15-20; 1 John 4.1; Acts 20.28-30).
 - Jesus discerns between good and evil in verse 6.
 - Christians are told to judge with right judgment (John 7.24).
 - Jesus discusses the principle of sowing and reaping (Matthew 7.2).
- Matthew 7.3-5
 - Jesus encounters the problem of overlooking one’s own sins as others in sin are corrected.
- Matthew 7.6
 - “A man cannot appreciate new truth until he has responded to the truth which he has already received.⁹”

⁹KJV Bible commentary. 1997, c1994. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Matthew 7.7-11

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do some Christians not grow spiritually?
2. How can Christians grow in spiritual quality?
3. If a Christian grows, will the congregation grow?

The Text:

- Three Steps toward God
 - Ask
 - Remember, our heavenly Father knows what we need before we even ask (Matthew 6.8).
 - Remember that God will take care of our needs (Matthew 6.25-33).
 - James 1.2-8
 - Seek
 - What does it mean to seek?
 - Remember the seeking lady of Luke 15?
 - You cannot find that which you do not seek.
 - Knock
 - "If opportunity does not knock, build a door." – *Milton Berle, comedian*
 - "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work". – *Thomas Edison*
 - What does knocking take? *Hint: one word:* _____
- Three responses of God
 - For everyone who ask receives...
 - And the one who seeks finds...
 - And to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- Why does God respond in those ways?

Matthew 7.12-24

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you want to be treated?
2. Why do some not obey the gospel?
3. How can Christians help others to know the gospel?

The Text:

- Your attitude toward others (Matthew 7.12)
 - Attitude determines actions
 - Your attitude toward other people will determine how you will treat them.
 - Your attitude affects your family (Acts 5.1-11).
 - Your attitude affects your friends (Luke 5.29-32).
 - Your attitude is seen and heard by others.
 - See Philippians 2.14-16
- Two Roads, Two Destinations (Matthew 7.13-14)
 - Road #1 – *Leading toward destruction*
 - “...the gate is wide and the way is easy...” (English Standard Version)
 - “...wide is the gate, broad is the way...” (New King James Version)
 - There are _____ who enter in the wide gate.
 - Road #2 – *Leading to life*
 - “...the gate is narrow and the way is hard...” (English Standard Version)
 - “...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way...” (New King James Version)
 - “...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way...” (King James Version)
 - There are _____ who find it.

Matthew 7.15-19

Discussion Questions:

1. How do problems enter a congregation?
2. How do false teachers enter a congregation?
3. In your opinion, what was the purpose behind giving this statement?

The Text:

- Beware of False Prophets
 - A wolf in sheep clothing?
 - What is the significance of the above statement?
 - See Acts 20.28-31.
 - See Jude 3,4.
 - In your opinion, why does Jesus give an example of the trees?.
- The Fire
 - What is the purpose of fire?
 - What will be tossed into the fire?
- Our Responsibility as Follower of Christ
 - Do we have a responsibility to recognize false teachers?
 - What can help us recognize false teachers?
 - "...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way..." (King James Version)
 - There are _____ who find it.

Matthew 7.21-23

Sad Bible Verse:

What do you consider to be some sad Bible verses?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it possible to know if you are going to Heaven?
 - a. What about 1 John 5.13?
2. How do you know you are in Christ?

The Text:

- How to enter the kingdom of Heaven
 - Not everyone will make it.
 - See Matthew 7.13.
 - How do we stay on the narrow way?
- Workers of good?
 - Did the people Jesus describes in Matthew 7.22 do good things/works?
 - If so, why would they not enter into the kingdom?
- Our Responsibility as Follower of Christ
 - What was the characteristic that Jesus gave these workers? (see Matthew 7.23)
 - What is lawlessness?

Matthew 7.24-28

Discussion Questions:

1. How important is planning for the future?
2. What is the importance of a good foundation for a home?
3. How great is a foundation for the progress of the future?

The Text:

- The first step
 - What is the first step that Jesus says you must take before you build your house?
- The House of the Wise Man
 - Where did the wise man build his house?
 - Why was/is a rock foundation so important?
- The House of the Foolish Man
 - Where did the foolish man build his house?
 - Why is sand a bad foundation?

Our House

- What is the rock of our foundation?
- What is the sand of others foundation?
- What are the storms we face?

Completion Test

1. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be _____."
(Matthew 5.4)
 - (a) Blessed eternally
 - (b) Comforted
 - (c) Given tissues

2. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive _____." (Matthew 5.7)
 - (a) Mercy
 - (b) God's forgives
 - (c) A get out of jail pass

3. Matthew 5.2-11 are typically called what?
 - (a) The beatitudes
 - (b) The beginning
 - (c) Nine verses

4. The word "blessed" means what?
 - (a) Happy
 - (b) Forgiven
 - (c) Given presents

5. When you are persecuted and people say evil against you, you are to do two things, what are they?
(Matthew 5.11-12)
 - (a) Rejoice and be glad
 - (b) Pray and get revenge
 - (c) Punch them and egg their house.

6. Salt that loses its flavor is to be what? (Matthew 5.13)
 - (a) _____

7. Jesus said that until the law is fulfilled, what will not pass away? (Matthew 5.19)
 - (a) The temple
 - (b) An iota or a dot
 - (c) His long sermon

8. Jesus said to his listeners that their righteousness must exceed the scribes and the _____ . (Matthew 5.20)
- (a) Sadducees
 - (b) Pharisees
 - (c) The area preachers

Complete the Verse

(The New King James Version)

9. Matthew 5.21-22: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother _____.”
10. Matthew 5.27-28: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman _____.”
11. Matthew 5.31-32: “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife _____.”
12. Matthew 5.33-34: “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, _____.”
13. Matthew 5.38-39: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you _____.”
14. Matthew 5.40: “If anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, _____.”
15. Matthew 5.41: “And whoever compels you to go one _____.”
16. Matthew 5.43-44: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, _____.”

17. If a person does his charitable deeds before men, what is his heavenly reward? (Matthew 6.1)
- (a) Nothing
 - (b) A mansion near the throne of God
 - (c) A free ice cream cone
18. Where are we to pray? (Matthew 6.6)
- (a) In a church building
 - (b) In a closet or a secret place
 - (c) Only when we are in trouble
19. The father knows the things we need before we _____.
(Matthew 6.8)
- (a) Ask
 - (b) Do them
 - (c) Forget them
20. How are followers of Christ to fast? (Matthew 6.16-18)
- (a) _____

21. Where are we to lay up treasures? (Matthew 6.19)
- (a) Heaven
 - (b) Bank One
 - (c) A mayonnaise jar in the backyard
22. Why can no one serve two masters? (Matthew 6.24)
- (a) _____

23. What does the term 'mammon' mean in Matthew 6.24?
- (a) Masters
 - (b) Money
 - (c) Who really knows?
24. In Matthew 6.34, what are we to do about tomorrow?
- (a) Worry
 - (b) Not worry
 - (c) Take a vacation

25. Finish the verse: "For with what judgment you judge, you will be _____."
(Matthew 7.2)
(a) Judged
(b) Rewarded
(c) Punished
26. What will happen if you ask? Seek? Knock? (Matthew 7.8)
(a) _____

27. What is the golden rule? (Matthew 7.12)
(a) _____

28. The way that leads to life is _____ and _____. (Matthew 7.14)
(a) Broad, easy
(b) Narrow, difficult
(c) Big, rich
29. Will everyone who claims to know Jesus make it to heaven? (Matthew 7.21-23)
(a) Yes
(b) No
(c) We cannot know
30. Whose house stayed firm? (Matthew 7.24-27)
(a) The foolish man
(b) The wise man
(c) The man who lived in the tent
31. The people were amazed because Jesus taught them as someone having _____."
(Matthew 7.28, 29)
(a) Knowledge
(b) Authority
(c) Big plans

Information about the Preacher's Pen

The Preacher's Pen (<http://www.preacherspen.org>) was created to encourage, challenge and strengthen those seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is our goal to reach as many people as possible with the message of higher living base on the teachings of Jesus.

The Preacher's Pen (<http://www.preacherspen.org>) seeks to fulfill the goal of reaching as many as possible by providing a variety of resources:

- Sermon Outlines
- Powerpoints
- Podcasts
- Videos
- And a variety of other resources.

The material on the Preacher's Pen reached over 200,000 people in 2008. Our goal is to double that number in 2009. You can assist us in reaching that goal by forwarding this material to other who could benefit from the contents.

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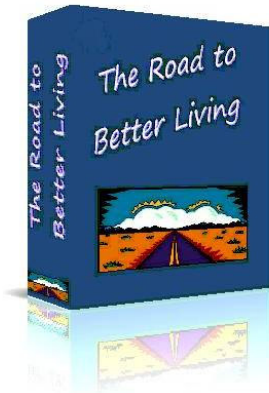
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Thanks again,



The Preacher's Pen

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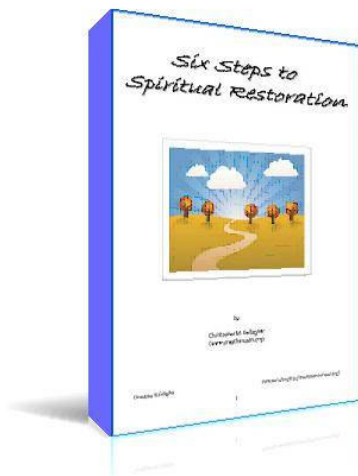
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