

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #1 – Up On The Mountain

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 4:12 – 5:1
- b) Deuteronomy 18:15-19 & 34:10-12
- c) Philippians 2:13

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Take a moment and look at the topical headings our English Bibles use to divide up Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. What topics do you see?
- b) Who preached The Sermon On the Mount? (This is not a trick question :-)
- c) At what point in Jesus' ministry did He preach this sermon (early, middle, late)?
- d) Where did Jesus preach this sermon? Is there any significance to the phrase "he went up on the mountain"? Does this remind you of anyone else in Scripture?
- e) Why did Jesus preach this sermon? What is its purpose?
- f) How should we interpret this sermon? Does it apply to us today?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #2 – The Beatitudes (Part 1)

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:3-12 (with a focus on 5:3-6) & 11:29
- b) Psalm 30:5
- c) Revelation 22:4-5
- d) 1 Peter 1:14-16
- e) 1 John 2:4-6 & 15-17

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What does it mean to be “blessed”?
- b) Who are the “poor in spirit”? What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?
- c) What will the “poor in spirit” inherit?
- d) Who are mourning? Why are they mourning?
- e) What does it mean to be meek?
- f) What is the result of being meek? Why are they blessed?
- g) What does it mean to “hunger and thirst for righteousness”?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #3 – The Beatitudes (Part 2)

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:3-12 (with a focus on 5:7-12)
- b) Titus 3:4-5
- c) Psalm 24:3-4
- d) John 14:1-3 & 15:19
- e) 2 Corinthians 5:18
- f) Romans 8:18

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What does it mean to be “blessed”?
- b) How were the first four Beatitudes related to one another?
- c) What is mercy?
- d) Who are the merciful? What does it look like to be merciful?
- e) How does mercy fit into the flow of the Beatitudes?
- f) What is the reward for being merciful?
- g) What does it mean to be “pure in heart”? Why are the pure in heart blessed?  
What does it mean “they shall see God”?
- h) How does this Beatitude fit the flow of the Beatitudes?
- i) What does it mean to be a peacemaker? What is the reward of the peacemaker? What does that mean?
- j) According to the final Beatitude, who are blessed? Why are they considered blessed?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #4 – Salt, Light, & the Law

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:13-20
- b) 1 Peter 2:12
- c) Philippians 2:14-15 & 3:20
- d) Luke 24:27
- e) Hebrews 10:11-12
- f) Romans 8:3-4
- g) 2 Timothy 3:16

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Other than persecution, what outcome might we expect (hope for) as we follow Jesus?
- b) What was the purpose of salt in Jesus' day?
- c) What did Jesus mean we are the "salt of the earth"?
- d) Can salt lose its saltiness? What happens to salt that is not salty?
- e) What does it mean to be the "light of the world"?
- f) What is the purpose of shining our light before others?
- g) According to Jesus, what is His relationship with the Old Testament law? How does this affect our interpretation and application of the Old Testament law?
- h) How do we reconcile Jesus' words in Matt. 5:18-19 with v. 17? Has the law been fulfilled? Or will the law never pass away?
- i) What does it mean to have a righteousness that exceeds the scribes and Pharisees?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #5 – Be Angry & Sin Not

### 1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:21-26
- b) Exodus 20:13
- c) Ephesians 4:26
- d) Romans 12:18
- e) Galatians 6:10
- f) 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Notice the formula in Matthew 5:21-22, “You have heard that it was said...” followed by “But I say to you.” This formula is repeated six times in Matthew 5. How can Jesus claim not to abolish the law (Matt. 5:17) when He seems to change or contradict the law six times in Matthew 5?
- b) Looking at v. 21, what Old Testament law is Jesus referring to when He says “You have heard that it was said...”?
- c) How might Jesus’ interpretation of this law in v. 22 differed from that of the scribes and Pharisees? What misinterpretation might He be addressing?
- d) What is the significance of the progression found in v. 22 (from anger to insults to name calling)?
- e) Is Jesus saying that ALL anger is sinful? Is anger ever considered righteous?
- f) If all anger is not being condemned, what is being condemned?
- g) How does Jesus apply His teaching on anger in v. 23-24?
- h) How does Jesus apply His teaching on anger in v. 25-26?
- i) Did you notice the absence of the word “brothers” in v. 25-26, although these word was used four times in the previous verses? Why might this be significant?
- j) How might we apply Jesus’ teaching in our relationships today?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #6 – Lust & Divorce

### 1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:27-32
- b) Exodus 20:14
- c) Deuteronomy 24:1
- d) 1 John 1:9

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What Old Testament law is Jesus referring to in Matthew 5:27
- b) Did Jesus agree with this law? If so, what is His point in Matthew 5:28?
- c) What does it mean to look at someone with “lustful intent”?
- d) What is the significance of the qualifier in v. 28 “in his heart”? Is physical adultery equal to a lustful look?
- e) What is Jesus saying in Matthew 5:29-30? Should we start tearing out eyes and cutting off hands? Why or Why not?
- f) Which Old Testament law is Jesus referring to in Matthew 5:31?
- g) What does “some indecency in her” mean in Deuteronomy 24:1? According to this passage, what are the Old Testament biblical grounds for divorce?
- h) Looking at Matthew 5:32, how did Jesus understand the biblical grounds for divorce expressed in Deut. 24:1?
- i) Based on Matthew 5:32, what does Jesus teach regarding marriage and divorce?
- j) How does a divorce make the wife guilty of adultery?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #7 – Be Honest & Live

### Graciously

1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:33-42
- b) Leviticus 19:12, 18 and 24:19-20
- c) Deuteronomy 23:21-23
- d) Exodus 20:16 and 21:23-24
- e) Romans 12:17-19

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What Old Testament law is Jesus referring to in Matt. 5:33?
- b) How did Jesus challenge the common interpretation of these passages?
- c) Does this mean Christians cannot make oaths of any kind? What about signing contracts?
- d) What are some practical applications of Matt. 5:33-37?
- e) What Old Testament law(s) was Jesus referring to in Matt. 5:38?
- f) What was the purpose of need for such laws?
- g) How might these verses be misinterpreted? How does Jesus correct the misinterpretation of these verses?
- h) In Matt. 5:39, Jesus says “Do not resist the one who is evil.” Does this prohibit Christians from defending themselves?
- i) Jesus gives four examples of His command in v. 39. What are these examples? How might we apply these principles to our lives?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #8 – Love Out Loud But Give In Secret

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 5:43 – 6:4
- b) Leviticus 19:18
- c) Luke 6:27-28 & 10:30-37
- d) Romans 5:8-10

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Where do we find the Old Testament command to love your neighbor but hate your enemy?
- b) What command does Jesus give in Matthew 5:44 in order to correct a common misinterpretation?
- c) According to Matt. 5:44, how should we love our enemies? Is this all we should? How does Luke 6:27-28 add to our understanding of our responsibility?
- d) Why is it important to love our enemies? What does this accomplish?
- e) What point is Jesus making in Matt. 4:46-48?
- f) How are we to understand the command given in Matt. 5:49? Can we be perfect? If not, why are we commanded to be?
- g) What is the main idea of Matt. 6:1-4
- h) Regardless of the meaning of the trumpets in Matt. 6:2, what is the meaning of this verse?
- i) How do we reconcile the fact that being salt and light is to be noticed, but we are told to give (and later to pray and fast) in secret?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #9 – Prayer & Fasting

### 1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 6:5-18 & 4:3-4
- b) Luke 5:16
- c) Acts 12:12 & 13:1-3

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What is Jesus condemning in Matthew 6:5?
- b) Does Matthew 6:6 forbid public prayers? Where do we see examples of public prayers in Scripture?
- c) What does Jesus mean when He says, “do not heap up empty phrases” in Matthew 6:7?
- d) What is fasting? What is the purpose of fasting?
- e) According to Matthew 6:16, what were the disciples NOT to do when they fasted? Why?
- f) According to Matthew 6:17, what were the disciples supposed to do when they fasted? Why?
- g) Do you think the spiritual discipline of fasting is practiced as frequently today? If not, why not?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #10 – Treasures In Heaven

### 1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 6:19-24, 22:36-37, & 25:21
- b) 1 Timothy 6:18-19
- c) Revelation 22:3-4
- d) Ecclesiastes 5:18-19
- e) Proverbs 6:6-8, 13:22, & 21:20

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What is the main point of Matthew 6:19-20?
- b) How does durability factor into the value or worth of an item?
- c) How do we “lay up” treasures in heaven?
- d) What does this treasure consist of? What will our heavenly rewards be?
- e) Does Jesus’ command in Matthew 6:19-20 mean we cannot enjoy earthly treasures or save for the future?
- f) What is the meaning of Matthew 6:21?
- g) What does it mean that “the eye is the lamp of the body”?
- h) What two “masters” is Jesus referring to in Matthew 6:24?
- i) How do I know if I am serving God or serving money?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #11 – Seek First The Kingdom of

### God

1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 6:25-34
- b) Philippians 4:6-7
- c) Ephesians 4:17-18

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) How do we overcome anxiety? What is our source of peace which defeats our anxiety?
- b) What is the meaning of Jesus' question, "Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" What is the answer?
- c) What truth do Jesus' words in v. 26 convey?
- d) What is the answer to the question posed in v. 27? What point is Jesus making?
- e) Why does Jesus refer to the anxious as "you of little faith"? What is the relationship between anxiety and faith?
- f) What is the significance of mentioning the Gentiles in v. 32?
- g) If we are not to "seek after" food, water, or clothing, what are we to seek?
- h) What does it mean to "seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness"?
- i) Does v.33 mean God will always provide every physical need for every believer? If not, what does v. 33 mean? What is promised?
- j) What is the meaning of v. 34?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #12 – To Judge...Or Not To Judge

### 1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 7:1-6
- b) I Cor. 5:5
- c) Philippians 3:2
- d) Hebrews 3:12-13
- e) 1 John 4:1
- f) 1 Peter 1:14-15
- g) Acts 17:32 – 18:1
- h) Luke 9:5

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Have you ever heard someone say, “The Bible says, ‘Judge not.’”? What do they typically mean? What are they attempting to use this verse to condemn?
- b) Does Matthew 7:1 prohibit Christians from making moral judgments?
- c) Looking at the preceding verses from Jesus’ sermon on the mount, is it possible to obey His teaching without making moral judgements?
- d) Are there other New Testament passages that imply or command us to make moral judgments? If so, how do we interpret Jesus’ command to “Judge not”?
- e) How do v. 3-5 inform our understanding of Jesus’ command to “Judge not”?
- f) What is the meaning of Jesus’ speck vs. log analogy?
- g) According to v. 5, how are we to judge others?
- h) What is the significance of the term “brother” in v. 3-5? How does this inform our understanding of this passage?
- i) Looking back at v. 1-2, what does Jesus say is the consequence of unloving and hypocritical judgments?
- j) What is the meaning of v. 6? How does it fit the context of this passage? How do we know when to apply the principle of this passage?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #13 – Ask, Seek, Knock

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 7:7-14 / 5:16 & 5:48
- b) John 10:7-9 & 14:6
- c) Luke 11:13
- d) Ephesians 1:13-14
- e) Acts 4:12

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What does the saying “Context is king” mean? Why is context important when reading any Scripture?
- b) Looking at Matthew 7:7-8, how might these verses be misinterpreted if taken out of context?
- c) Is Jesus promises we will get anything we ask for? How does context inform the meaning of this passage?
- d) What is the meaning/purpose of Jesus’ illustration in Matthew 7:9-11?
- e) In the context of this passage, what are the “good things” our Heavenly Father will give us?
- f) What, if any, is the connection between Jesus’ promise of “good things” in v. 11 and His command to treat others as we would be treated in v. 12?
- g) Does treating other as we want to be treated mean we must do whatever they want? Why or Why not?
- h) What does Jesus mean when He says “for this is the Law and the Prophets” at the end of v. 12?
- i) What is the main point of v.13-14?
- j) Why does Jesus describe the way of salvation as “hard” and the way of destruction as “easy”?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #14 – Beware of False Prophets

### 1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Matthew 7:15-23
- b) Jeremiah 28
- c) 1 John 4:1
- d) Acts 17:10-12
- e) Romans 10:9
- f) Exodus 7:10-11
- g) Galatians 5:19-23

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Looking back to the previous verses, what was the main point of Matthew 5:13-14?
- b) Who are the “false prophets” Jesus is speaking of, and what are they doing?
- c) How do we recognize false prophets?
- d) What will happen to the tree that does not bear good fruit?
- e) Who might be considered a “false prophet” today? Why?
- f) How do we reconcile v. 20 with v. 22-23? Is it possible to have the appearance of good fruit and still not be a true believer?
- g) Looking at v. 22-23, how are these “mighty works” performed if the one performing them does not know God?

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Lesson #15 – Build On The Rock

### 1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Matthew 7:24-29, 28:18
- b) John 1:14
- c) James 3:13
- d) Revelation 20:11-15
- e) Ephesians 2:8-9

### 2) Questions To Consider:

- a) In v. 24, what words is Jesus specifically referring when He says, “Everyone who hears **these words** of mine..”?
- b) According to v. 24, what does obedience to Jesus’ words demonstrate?
- c) Why would a wise builder build upon the rock?
- d) What do we need protection from? What do the rain, floods, and wind in v. 25 represent?
- e) What is the danger of building your house on the sand?
- f) In these verses, is Jesus tying our salvation to our obedience?
- g) How do we understand the relationship between faith and works?
- h) What was the crowd’s reaction to Jesus’ sermon?
- i) Why did they react this way? How was Jesus’ teaching different?