



Masterclass

the sermon on the mount

MASTERCLASS (January 7 to February 24)

The idea of a “masterclass” is to learn from the world’s best experts on a variety of subjects. In a sermon recorded in Matthew 5 to 7, Jesus offers the ultimate — and original — masterclass on Kingdom living. The Sermon on the Mount doesn’t say “live this way to be my disciple” but rather “because you are my disciple, this is how you were meant to live.” Kingdom living is often in direct opposition to the way of the world. However, when we sit at the feet of the master and learn, we find a life like no other.

Group Discussion

Getting started: When are you tempted to look for a loophole in a situation?

1. Read **Matthew 5:31-32** and **Matthew 19:1-8**. How are the Pharisees looking for loopholes while Jesus looks to God’s original design and intent for marriage? How is Jesus looking to protect women against mistreatment in a culture that favored men? How has your own life been affected by divorce? Spend some time praying over marriages, and for those who have been hurt because of divorce.
2. Read **Matthew 5:33-37**. The scribes and Pharisees had once again found a loophole which implied truth-telling was only necessary when under oath. In what ways do you sometimes manipulate others with your speech? Can you think of any examples of how people might invoke God’s name in order to get their own way? Why is it so important that we always be truth-tellers?
3. Read **Matthew 5:38-42**. The intent behind this Old Testament law was to protect against the over-punishment of a crime. How does Jesus raise the bar? In choosing not to retaliate or get even, what are we teaching others about the kingdom of God? This verse is not necessarily about pacifism, or refusing to help when someone else is being hurt. When should we take action and when should we not?

4. There was a law that said a Roman soldier could make you carry his bag for one mile, but not a step further. Jesus says if you're asked to do this, carry it two miles. Why does Jesus tell us to go the extra mile? Where do you have an opportunity to go the extra mile to love someone?
5. Read [*Matthew 5:43-44*](#). Since a blind or crippled person could still lust, what is the point Jesus is making? You can have freedom from sin, even sexual sin, but it will cost you. What things might you have to sacrifice or cut out of your life to help you in this battle?

Next Steps

1. What have you learned about God from His Word?
2. How is He asking you to apply it to your life?
3. When will you apply it?

Resources

- [*The Sermon On The Mount*](#) by The Bible Project
- [*The Divine Conspiracy*](#) by Dallas Willard

Next Week

We will continue our eleven-week series *Masterclass* with the sermon *Follow The Leader*. We will be in Matthew 6:1-4; 19-24.

- **Jasper:** 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. EST.
- **Loogootee:** 9 and 10:30 a.m. EST.
- **Tell City:** 8:30 and 10 a.m. CST.

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