

Peninsula City Church

The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7

An Overview of the Chapters

Michael Podhaczky

5th May 2024, 10 AM Service

Contents

The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7: An Overview3
 An Introduction.....3
1. The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7: An Introduction.....3
2. The Context of Matthew 5-74
3. Some Breakdowns of the Sermon5
4. The Structure of the Teaching of Chapters 5-78
Some concluding thoughts9
Appendix One: Jensen’s Outline of Matthew 11

The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7: An Overview

An Introduction

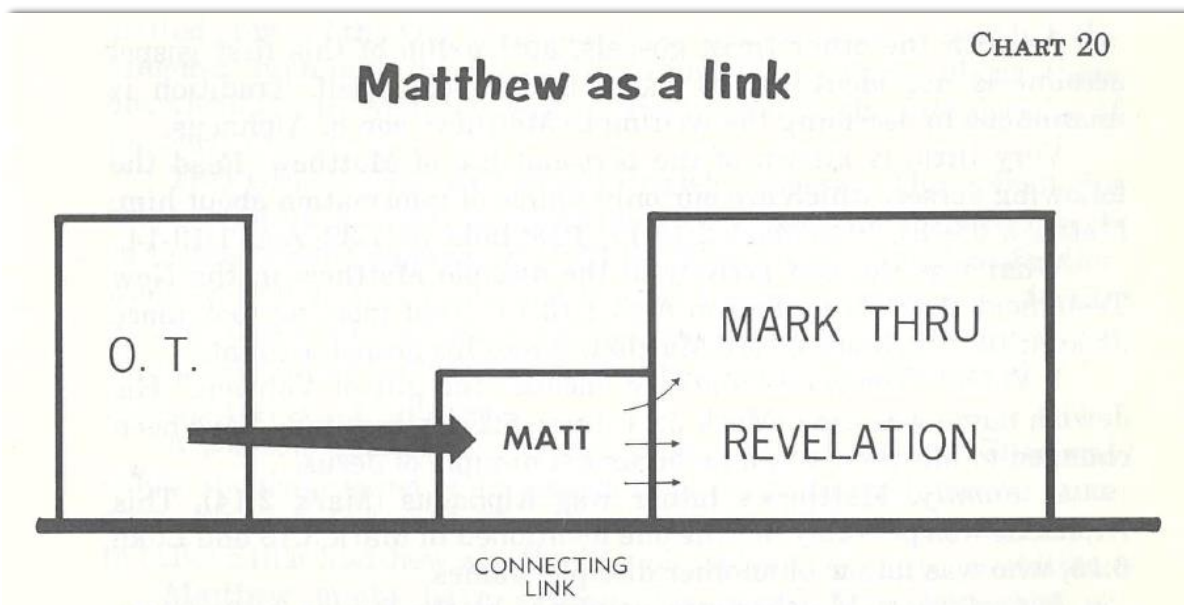
Q. What was Jesus' purpose for this teaching, and how can it be applied?

As we will study Matthew 5-7 material together, the following information will hopefully help. What follows is not an exhaustive review but some aids for understanding the context of Matthew 5-7. Although it has been called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was teaching rather than preaching, Matt 5:2; 7:28-29. The Gospel account by Matthew in chapters 5-7 recorded Jesus's teaching regarding life as part of the Kingdom of Heaven. It was Jesus' presentation in a way they would not have heard the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible) taught before. The Torah was originally given on Mount Sinai, Ex 19-20. In contrast, Jesus presented His address on a Mountain in Galilee, Matt 5:1. The teaching here is practical and down to earth while at the same time very confronting. Matthew's format is unique; only Luke briefly mentions anything like it, Lk 6:20-49.

1. The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7: An Introduction

Q. How can we understand the teaching presented by Jesus in these chapters?

The book of Matthew is the first Gospel listed within the New Testament under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Although the Gospels of Mark and Luke may have been written first, Matthew comes straight after the close of the Hebrew Bible. It links the Hebrew Bible to the New Testament, focusing on what has been said and done in the Hebrew Bible.¹



The author of Matthew used the Hebrew Bible a lot in writing their linking account. They quoted the Hebrew Bible directly or indirectly over one hundred times compared with Mark about forty times, Luke around seventy, and John approximately fifty. It has been said that,

“The main purpose of Matthew in writing this account was to show Jesus as the King of the promised Kingdom. He sought ‘to connect’ the memories of His readers with their hopes, to show that the Lord of the Christian was the Messiah of the Jews,’ the King of the promised Kingdom.”²

¹ Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament*, (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1981), 113.

² Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament*, 116.

The following are three key passages that outline the idea of Jesus Christ as the coming King. It is an interwoven theme throughout this Gospel.

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matt 1:1 NASB).

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him” (Matt 2:2 NASB).

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’” (Matt 28:18 NASB).

These passages will help us understand the context of what Jesus the King said in Matt 5-7.

2. The Context of Matthew 5-7

Q. How do we understand the literary context of Jesus’ teaching here?

The section of Scripture has a larger context than just these three chapters. It is vital to grasp this if we want to understand it. So, here we will look at the context leading into and out of the three chapters. In preparing to arrange the teaching found in their Gospel, the author introduced it in the following way.

- The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus: Matt 3:16
- The Father proclaimed His pleasure for His Son: Matt 3:17

Notice the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all present simultaneously in one place in these verses. It is essential to realise this as some have incorrectly taught that God the Father appeared in various modes throughout biblical history over the centuries. That is, they teach firstly, He appeared in the mode of the Father, then in the mode of the Son and ceased to be the Father, and then in the mode as the Holy Spirit while the Son stopped existing.

- The author recorded Jesus as saying, “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand’” (Matt 4:17 NASB).
- Then Matt 4:23-24 recorded how Jesus began to show the present reality of the Kingdom of Heaven as He healed the sick and freed the demonised.
- Matthew then introduced the reader to the many people who were now following Jesus around from around Galilee, the ten cities, and beyond the Jordan River: Matt 4:25
- We then see in the introduction of chapter five that these many people were still with Him, so He went up onto a mountain: Matt 5:1
- He sat down (cf. Lk 4:20) and began to teach the disciples regarding some of the principles and lifestyle of the Kingdom of God, and the crowds heard Him as well: Matt 5:1-2

Then, in concluding the Sermon, the author closed these chapters the following way.

- There will be two types of people, those who will hear and put His teaching into practice and those who will hear but do not do anything about it: Matt 7:24-27
- When Jesus had finished His authoritative teaching, the crowds were amazed by what they had just heard: Matt 7:28-29
- Jesus came down off the Mount: Matt 8:1
- Many people were still there with Jesus following Him: Matt 8:1
- The author then went on to close off this section by recording that Jesus continues to heal, this time a person with leprosy: Matt 8:2-4

Here is a table as a visual aid to the previous material. A colour code is used to help see some parallels and connections. The colours will match if there is a parallel; otherwise, it will be left white.

The following is the introduction context: Chiastic.
The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus Matt 3:13-17
Jesus Preached: Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand: Matt 4:17
A. The Kingdom of Heaven Demonstrated Healings & Miracles: Matt 4:23-24
B. The Crowds Follow Jesus: Matt 4:25; 5:1
C. Jesus Went up onto a Mountain: Matt 5:1
D. Jesus Sits & Begins to Teach His Followers: Matt 5:2
The Following is the Ending Context:
Jesus Preached: The hearers, Doers & the Hearers, & Non-doers: Matt 7:24-27
D'. Jesus' Authoritative Teaching, the People Amazed at What They Heard: Matt 7:28-29
C'. Jesus Came Down off the Mount: Matt 8:1
B'. The Crowds Still There & Followed Him: Matt 8:1
A'. Jesus Continued to Heal this Time a Leper: Matt 8:2-4

3. Some Breakdowns of the Sermon

Q. How can we break this teaching down to understand its parts?

The following are some summaries of Matthew chapters 5-7. Hopefully, they will help us understand the parts of this teaching of Jesus. You will notice that there is not just one way this can be broken down. Nevertheless, we can learn from each of them.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:3-7:27 - What the Kingdom of God is all about³

5:3		5:17	5:48	6:1	7:13-27
Kingdom Citizens		Kingdom Principles		Kingdom Attitudes & Deeds	Concluding Appeals
Their Character	5:13 Their Influence	The Law's Fulfilment	5:21 The Old & New	Worship: - Giving - Praying - Fasting	6:19 Walk Citizenship Tested

³ Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament*, 124.

The following breakdown is taken from The Bible Project material. The Bible Project freely offers its material and is a decent Bible study resource.

Matthew Chaps 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount⁴			
Introduction: The Identity of those in God's Kingdon			5:3-16
The Good Life: 5:3-12	Salt of the Land: 5:13	City on a Hill: 5:14-16	
Nine Sayings or Beatitudes	A Long-Lasting Covenant	Light of the World	
The Body: A Greater Righteousness: (Living in the right relationship with God & others) - His Followers are to Do Righteousness			5:17-7:12
Torah & the Prophets: 5:17-48	Religious Practices: 6:1-21	Right Relationships: 6:19-7:12	
1. Jesus Fulfills them: 5:17-20	1. True Reward: 6:1	1. God & Money: 6:19-34 sky treasure, 2 parables: 2 kinds of eyes, & 2 masters; 2. Do not worry	
2. Six Case Studies: 5:21-47: Anger, lust, divorce, truth-telling, revenge & enemy love	2. True Devotion: 6:2-18: Generosity, prayer & fasting	3. God & Neighbours: 7:1-11, Do not judge, 2 parables; Speck in the eye, Holy pearls; Seek & knock	
3. Be Complete (or whole), i.e. <i>telios</i> : 5:48	3. True Wealth: 6:19-21	4. The Golden Rule: 7:12	
Conclusion: The Choice of How People Will Respond			7:13-27
Two Gates: 7:13-14	Two Trees: 7:15-23	Two Houses: 7:24-27	

What Jesus Taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Visual Commentary):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajwehw_AT0s (8th April 2024).

⁴ Tenney, Merrill C. *Galatians: The Charter of Christian Liberty*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1950), 35.

The next one is a set of breakdowns of Matthew chapters 5-7 to help in your teaching on a topic.⁵

The Disciple Taught on the Mount: 5:1-7:29	
5:3-12	The Characters: Chiastic Structure
	v3 Heirs of the Kingdom
	v4 Mourners & Reward
	v5 Inheritance: Earthly
	v6 True Righteousness
	v7 Fruits of Righteousness
	v8 Inheritance Heavenly
	v9 Peacemakers & Rewards
	vv10-12 Heirs of the Kingdom

5:13-16	True Disciples: Alternating
	v13 In the Earth: Salt
	v14 The Light
	v14 In the Earth: Light
	v15 A Lamp

The Kingdom: The Laws of It: 5:17-7:12	
5:17-7:12	The Law: Introversion
	5:17-20 They Fulfil the Law & the Prophets
	5:21-48 They Transcend the Law of Moses
	6:1-7:11 They Excel the Tradition of the Elders
	7:12 They Fulfil the Law & the Prophets

5:21-48	They Transcend the Law of Moses: Division
	v21-26 The Law of Murder
	v27-32 The Law of Adultery
	v33-37 The Law of Perjury
	v38-42 The Law of Retaliation
	v43-48 The Law of Love

⁵ Bullinger, Heinrich. *The Companion Bible*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1974), 1316-1322.

6:1-7:11	They Excel the Tradition of the Elders: Division
	6:2-4 As to Alms (Money) Giving
	6:5-15 As to Prayer
	6:16-18 As to Fasting
	6:19-24 As to Riches
	6:25-7:11 As to Cares & etc.

7:12-29	Therefore: Summing Up: Division
	7:12 Therefore
	7:13-14 The Kingdom: Entrance into It
	7:15-23 False Teachers
	7:24-27 Characters - Whosoever: True Wisdom
	7:28-29 Conclusion

4. The Structure of the Teaching of Chapters 5-7

Q. Is there any methodological structure as part of the teaching that can help understand it?

The following is a brief overview of the teaching structure of Matt 5-7. You will find that although Jesus used different methods to get His teaching across, He mainly used comparisons. These comparisons were between the earthly perspective and the Heavenly one. For example, He used phrases like “You have heard that it was said...” “But I say to you...” Or He introduced an action showing how it is not to be done and then said, “But when you...” or “And when you...”

Methodology	Passage	Topic	Summary
Introduction	5:1-2	He Sat & Taught	He taught His disciples & the crowds listened in
Blessing	5:3-12	Blessing, not Curse	An important part of the life of heaven
Examples	5:13-16	Salt & Light	The Christ-Followers Life
	5:17-20	The Law Fulfilled	The Eternal Word of God
Comparisons	5:21-7:27	It is the largest method that Jesus used here	
	5:21-26	Murder & Words	It all begins within the heart of a person
	5:27-32	Adultery & The Heart	It all begins within the heart of a person
	5:33-37	Oaths & Yes/No	Oaths not acceptable
	5:38-42	Love Your Enemies	Go the second mile (So to speak)
	5:43-48	Enemies Hate or Love	Love everyone regardless
	6:1-4	Public & Private Good	This is how to do good
	6:5-15	Public & Private Prayer	This is how to pray
	6:16-18	Public & Private Fasting	This is how to fast
	6:19-21	Earthly & Heavenly	The heavenly bank

		Treasure	
	6:22-23	The Good & Bad Eyes	The light of the body
	6:24	The Two Masters	You cannot serve two masters
	6:25-34	Worry & the Kingdom	Do not worry
	7:1-6	Judge: Others or Self	Do not judge
An Example	7:7-12	Persistence in Prayer	Continue to pray regardless
Comparisons	7:13-14	Narrow & Broad Gates	All will need to choose a way
	7:15-20	Good & Bad Fruit	Known for their fruit
	7:21-23	Know & Not Know Him	I never knew you
	7:24-27	Two Builders	What is heard needs to be done
	7:28-29	2 Kinds of Teaching	The people were amazed

Some concluding thoughts

So, coming back to the opening question,

Q. What was Jesus' purpose for this teaching, and how can it be applied?

We have seen that the so-called Sermon on the Mount (since, as we have seen, Jesus was teaching, Matt 5:2; 7:28-29) is an incredible insight into the Kingdom of Heaven. Hopefully, the material within these pages will guide your continuing reading and study. Remember that nothing laid out here is exhaustive, merely an overview of the chapters. Its primary aim is to help you understand the literary context. So, please remember that whatever section you are reading or studying has context.

Remember that other contextual issues are not mentioned here. For example, there are areas like the social, religious, historical, and Hebrew Bible contexts, to mention only some. So, you will need to review these to know what and why something has been said here. We need to remember what it all meant to the original audience in Jesus' day. An important reason for this is that it cannot mean something different today from what it meant to the original audience. Only after we have determined this can we begin to review what it may mean for us today. Only then can we finally come to how we respond to what we have read and studied. The response will always come from the passage/s you are dealing with; we never have to read the response back into the passage/s.

I hope that your journey through this process will be rewarding. Sometimes, we can be so focused on the destination of our conclusion that we miss the joy of the journey of discovery. I hope that this will be a joyful journey of discovery for you. Can I encourage you not to merely repeat someone else's work or thoughts, e.g. a commentary, website, or book? Instead, read the passage/s and the surrounding context to find the gems for yourself. So, although some helpful insights have been given within these pages, use them as tools to begin and aid your digging. Once you find the gems, you will need to clean them up and polish them for your understanding and response. It is much more fulfilling when your Bible study is done this way. So, enjoy your journey of discovery and living out of the gems you have discovered.

So, from today onwards, we need to let the Holy Spirit guide our reading and studying these chapters to change our lives. We need to 'Stop and reflect.' We have seen what has been said on this matter. But what has the Holy Spirit been saying to you today? That is, what is the one thing that stands out to you? We all need to apply what we have learned; otherwise, it is merely all academic. Then, we need to respond to what the Holy Spirit has been saying to us.

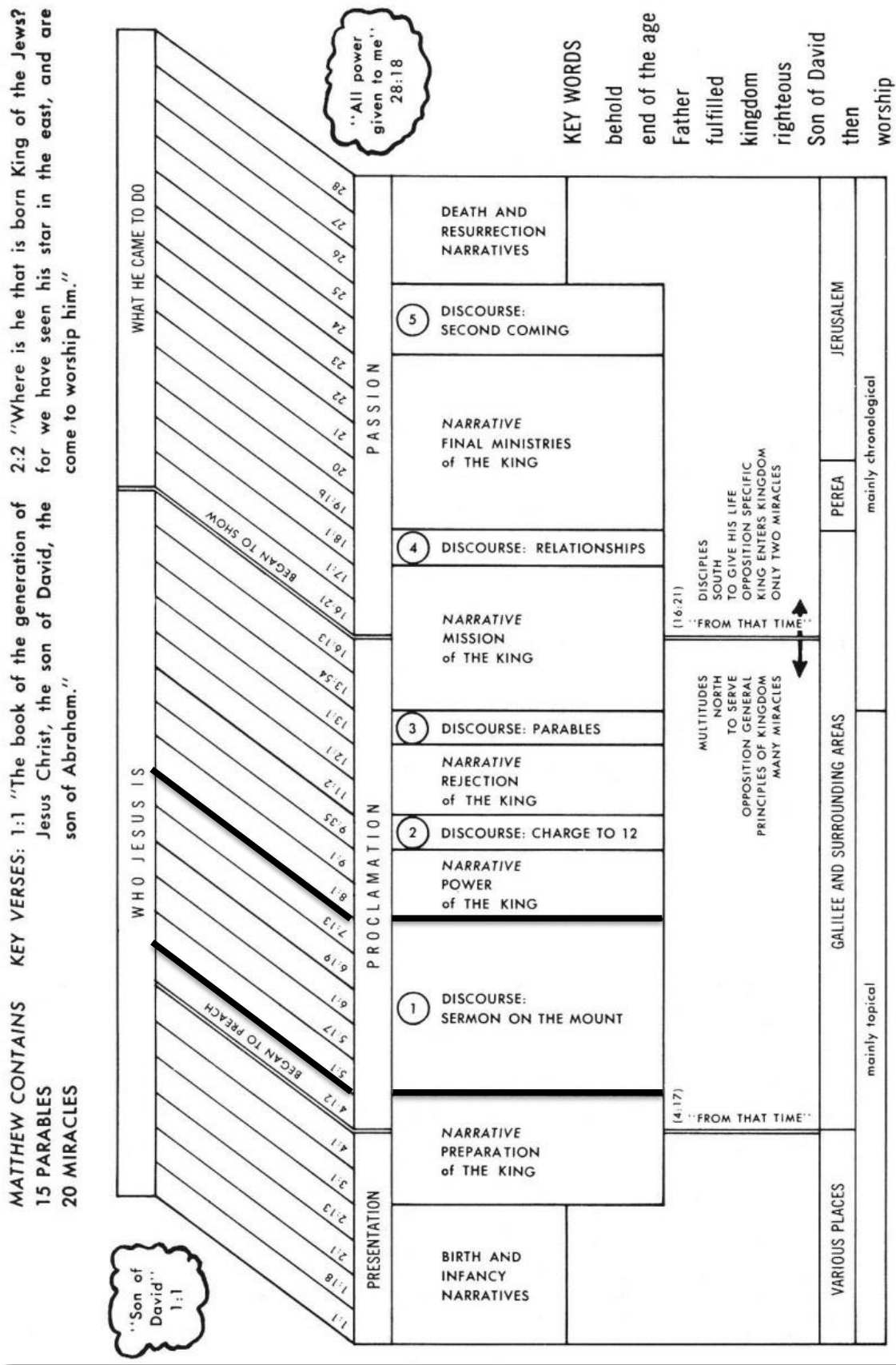
In response, we need to ask through this process:

- What personal application can be found in the passages?
- What is God teaching me today?
- That is, "What is God saying to me?"

How should I respond to what is being said, or so what?

- What are you going to do about it?
- What do you need to do to respond?
- Pray and respond

Appendix One: Jensen's Outline of Matthew 6



⁶ Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament*, (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1981), 120.