

# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 1

### The Blessed Children of God – Matthew 5:1-16

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

**INTRODUCTION:** The Sermon on the Mount was directed primarily to his disciples (and, therefore, to us as his believers today). (Verses 1-2: <sup>1</sup>Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to teach them.) The first sixteen verses of this chapter serve as an introduction to the entire sermon. In this first section he describes certain characteristics that mark the children of God. These are characteristics that should show us as children of God today.

### JESUS GIVES BLESSINGS (The Beatitudes) Matthew 5:1-12

#### The Poor in Spirit

Read 5:3: *He said, <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are those who are spiritually needy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.*

1. What is the difference between those who are “spiritually needy” and those who appear to have a feeling of inferiority?
2. How does being “spiritually needy” encourage a life of daily repentance?

#### Those Who Mourn

Read 5:4: *Blessed are those who are sad. They will be comforted.*

Every type of sadness is meant, including sadness and sorrow over one’s sins. The comfort can be found only in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

3. What is the difference in sadness between a Christian and an unbeliever?
4. If a Christian cries at times of sadness does that reveal a weakness in faith?

## The Meek

Read 5:5: *Blessed are those who are free of pride. They will be given the earth.*

A person with sinful pride would say, “I know what I want, and I will assert myself in whatever way necessary to get it.” The gentle person, free of pride, understands God’s gifts and the right use of them.

5. How did Jesus show himself free of pride during his earthly ministry?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. According to the world’s standards what is “success?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What will make you successful in life?

## Those Who Live a Holy Life

Read 5:6: *Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right. They will be filled.*

“What is right” is living the way God would have us live. We should be eager (hungry) to do just that.

8. Where does the power and motivation come from to live this kind of a life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Can a person who is not a Christian live a “right” life?

## The Merciful

Read 5:7: *Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.*

Webster says mercy is “refraining from harming ... enemies, kindness in excess of what may be expected, kind or compassionate treatment.” The opposite would be “cruelty.”

10. In your present circumstance, what opportunities do you have to show mercy to someone?

## The Pure in Heart

Read 5:8: *Blessed are those whose hearts are pure. They will see God.*

One person said, “The person who is pure in heart is one who is watching and pondering what God says and replacing his own ideas with the Word of God.” A person who is pure in heart will seek to live according to God’s Word. The situation does not determine if something is right or wrong, but God’s Word makes the determination.

We cannot see God face to face, but we can seem him through the eyes of faith. When we get to heaven then we will see him face to face in the fullness of his glory.

11. How can we know whether our ideas and lifestyle are right with God?

12. How have the world’s standards of morality changed in recent years?

13. How have God’s standards of morality changed to conform to the world?

## The Peacemakers

Read 5:9: *Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called sons of God.*

Jesus wants us to make every effort to keep peace in our homes, in our country, and between nations. We will find that peace only when we have found real peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

14. Should a Christian be a “pacifist?”

15. What is the authority of the government when it comes to war?

## The Persecuted

Read 5:10-12: <sup>10</sup>*Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.* <sup>11</sup>*“Blessed are you when people make fun of you and hurt you because of me. You are also blessed when they tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me.* <sup>12</sup>*Be joyful and glad. Your reward in heaven is great. In the same way, people hurt the prophets who lived long ago.*

People are persecuted for many reasons. Here Jesus is talking about the persecution we may have to endure because we are Christians.

16. What kind of persecution might you have to endure because you are a Christian?

17. How might you handle persecution when it comes to you?

## THE QUALITIES OF THE LORD'S BLESSED CHILDREN

### Matthew 5:13-16

#### **They Are Like Preserving Salt**

Read 5:13: *"You are the salt of the earth. But suppose the salt loses its saltiness. How can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything. It will be thrown out. People will walk all over it."*

Today we use salt to make our food taste better. In Jesus' day it was most often used as a preservative. If salt were no longer salty it would not preserve the food and it would rot and decay. We are "no longer good for anything" if we are not living and sharing our Christian faith.

18. In what way are Christians the salt of the earth?

19. When does a Christian lose his/her saltiness?

#### **They Are Like a Visible Light**

Read 5:14-16: <sup>14</sup>*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>"In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.*

Jesus also tells us (John 8:12) that he is the Light of the world. Only because of his "light" in us can we be light to others. Faith in him makes us his lights. Our works show that faith as we glorify him with our lives.

20. How can you be a "better" light to those around you?

21. What has this lesson taught you about your daily life?

# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 2

### Jesus’ Review of God’s Law – Matthew 5:17-37

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

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## JESUS GIVES FULL MEANING TO THE LAW

### Matthew 5:17-20

#### Jesus’ Preaching of the Law

Read 5:17-18: *<sup>17</sup>“Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do that. Instead, I have come to give full meaning to what is written. <sup>18</sup>What I’m about to tell you is true. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest stroke of a pen will disappear from the Law until everything is completed.*

By the Law Jesus here means all of the Old Testament scriptures. Jesus fulfilled the law perfectly for us as our substitute because we could never do it.

#### 1. What commandments of God do people today not want to hear or follow?

Read 5:19-20: *<sup>19</sup>“Do not break even one of the least important commandments. And do not teach others to break them. If you do, you will be called the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. Instead, practice and teach these commands. Then you will be called important in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>“Here is what I tell you. You must be more godly than the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. If you are not, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

The Pharisees strove to keep God’s Law outwardly (“the letter”) but they were not concerned about the attitude (“the spirit”) of the Law.

#### 2. How does God want us to keep his commandments?

# JESUS EXPLAINS “YOU SHALL NOT MURDER”

## Matthew 5:21-26

### The Broad Stroke of This Commandment

Read 5:21-22: <sup>21</sup>“You have heard what was said to people who lived long ago. They were told, ‘Do not commit murder.—(Exodus 20:13) Anyone who murders will be judged for it.’ <sup>22</sup>But here is what I tell you. Do not be angry with your brother. Anyone who is angry with his brother will be judged. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ must stand trial in the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire in hell.

The Aramaic word, “raca,” means “empty head,” and the senseless use of the word “fool” implies contempt for another person and incurs the danger of hellfire.

3. How can the Christian justify capital punishment if God says, “Do not commit murder?”

4. Who has the authority on earth to take a human life?

### Reconciling With an Offended Person

Read 5:23-26: <sup>23</sup>“Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother has something against you. <sup>24</sup>Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>“Suppose someone has a claim against you and is taking you to court. Settle the matter quickly. Do it while you are still with him on your way. If you don’t, he may hand you over to the judge. The judge may hand you over to the officer. And you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>What I’m about to tell you is true. You will not get out until you have paid the very last penny!

We will never have a pure relationship with our Lord and Savior if we have a faulty relationship with our neighbor. We need to reconcile with those we have offended and sinned against.

5. Who has the potential for committing murder?

6. What should we do if our neighbor refuses reconciliation?

# JESUS EXPLAINS, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY”

## Matthew 5:27-32

### The Scope of Unfaithfulness and Adultery

Read 5:27-28: <sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ – (Exodus 20:14) <sup>28</sup>But here is what I tell you. Do not even look at a woman in the wrong way. Anyone who does has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The Lord shows that the breaking of his commandments is not just in the outward act but begins already in the heart. A sinful desire in the heart can lead to a sinful act.

7. What should set the standard of morality for us?

8. What happens to a society that relaxes and even abandons moral values?

### Combating Sinful Desires

Read 5:29-30: <sup>29</sup>“If your right eye causes you to sin, poke it out and throw it away. Your eye is only one part of your body. It is better to lose it than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>“If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. Your hand is only one part of your body. It is better to lose it than for your whole body to go into hell.

Jesus is not saying we should dismember ourselves! He is telling us to repent of those evil things in our life and with his strength and help change the way we think and act. We need to do this daily!

9. What is the only effective way to combat the many forms of immorality that confront you as an individual?

### What God Says About Divorce

Read 5:31-32: <sup>31</sup>“It has been said, ‘Suppose a man divorces his wife. If he does, he must give her a letter of divorce.’ – (Deuteronomy 24:1) <sup>32</sup>But here is what I tell you. Anyone who divorces his wife causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who gets married to the divorced woman commits adultery. A man may divorce his wife only if she has not been faithful to him.

The wording here may be misleading. Jesus is not saying that a divorced woman would commit adultery by remarriage. Rather he is saying that a man makes it appear as if she is an adulteress and if she were to remarry it would look as if the man who married her is also guilty of adultery. When a marriage is broken by divorce for reasons the Bible allows (adultery and malicious desertion) the innocent party is free to marry and does not carry the stigma of adultery.

10. How should the Christian view the many grounds for divorce approved and accepted by our government?

**JESUS EXPLAINS “YOU SHALL NOT MISUSE  
THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD”**  
**Matthew 5:33-37**

Read 5:33-37: <sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard what was said to your people long ago. They were told, ‘Do not break the promises you make to the Lord. Keep the oaths you have made to him.’ <sup>34</sup>But here is what I tell you. Do not make any promises like that at all. Do not make them in the name of heaven. That is God’s throne. <sup>35</sup>Do not make them in the name of the earth. That is the stool for God’s feet. Do not make them in the name of Jerusalem. That is the city of the Great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath in the name of your head. You can’t make even one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>“Just let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes.’ Let your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

It should not be necessary for us to “strengthen” our words by speaking an oath. It is this frivolous kind of swearing that was common among the Jews of Jesus’ day that he is condemning.

11. Should a Christian object when he/she is asked to swear in a court of law? Why or why not?

12. What is the difference between swearing and cursing?

13. What kind of expressions of “swearing” do you hear today?

14. What lessons have you learned from this Bible study?

# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 3

### The Law of Love and the Enemy – Matthew 5:38-48

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

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## JESUS HELPS US BE KIND TO OTHERS

### Matthew 5:38-42

#### Jesus Forbids Retaliation

Read 5:38-39: <sup>38</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye must be put out for an eye. A tooth must be knocked out for a tooth.’ – (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21) <sup>39</sup>But here is what I tell you. Do not fight against an evil person. “Suppose someone hits you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to him also.

The Lord is not telling us to take the law into our own hands. This is the responsibility of those responsible for preserving law and order (government).

1. Do you have a right to defend yourself if you are abused or attacked? Explain your answer.

Read 5:40: *Suppose someone takes you to court to get your shirt. Let him have your coat also.*

The Lord is not saying that we should never take another person to court. He is saying that the higher law of love should prevail that we can calmly and humbly accept loss, if necessary.

2. Under what circumstances might you take another person to court and sue them?

3. If you are involved in an accident and the other person is at fault should you try to get the maximum you can from that person's insurance company? Explain your answer.

Read 5:41-42: <sup>41</sup>Suppose someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with him. <sup>42</sup>"Give to the one who asks you for something. Don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow something from you.

Christ's love for us compels us to do even more than is required of us. We should be ready to help others who have needs.

4. What limitations would you suggest if someone wanted to borrow something from you?
5. When would Christian love demand that you refuse someone who is seeking your help?

### Jesus Says We are to Love even our Enemies

Read 5:43-45: <sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor.—(Leviticus 19:18) Hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>45</sup>Then you will be sons of your Father who is in heaven. "He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't.

It is not too hard to love someone we like. Jesus says we are to love all people, even those who are our enemies. We can do this only through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We are to show a love that does not demand but is willing to give.

6. How do you explain Jesus' words in the light of Psalm 139:21-22: <sup>21</sup>Lord, I really hate those who hate you! I really hate those who rise up against you! <sup>22</sup>I have nothing but hatred for them. I consider them to be my enemies.

Read 5:46-48: <sup>46</sup>*“If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. <sup>47</sup>If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people who are ungodly do that. <sup>48</sup>So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

God expects us to show love to others even if they are not showing love to us. Our neighbor in the Bible sense is every other human being. We can never show that kind of perfect love but Christ’s love for us declares us perfect in the eyes of our heavenly Father. That perfection is ours through faith, not by our works.

**7. Why do people tend to feel more comfortable with people of their own race or culture than with others?**

**8. How would you explain to another person that in God’s eyes you are perfect?**

**9. What have you learned from this lesson on Christian love?**



# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 4

### A Warning Against Getting a Big Head – Matthew 6:1-18

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

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## DON'T GET A BIG HEAD AS YOU SHOW LOVE

### Matthew 6:1-4

#### God-pleasing Acts of Love Do Not Seek Recognition

Read 6:1-2: *<sup>1</sup>“Be careful not to do ‘good works’ in front of others. Don’t do them to be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. <sup>2</sup>“When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown. Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by others. What I’m about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward.*

1. What wrong motives might a person have for helping another person?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the right motive for helping another person?

#### God-pleasing Acts of Love Only Seek God’s Approval

Read 6:3-4: *<sup>3</sup>“When you give to the needy, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. <sup>4</sup>Then your giving will be done secretly. Your Father will reward you. He sees what you do secretly.*

3. Should you expect something in return when you do an act of Christian love? Explain your answer.
4. What opportunities do you have to do acts of Christian love?

## DON'T GET A BIG HEAD WHEN YOU PRAY

### Matthew 6:5-15

#### Wrong Motives When You Pray

Read 6:5-6: <sup>5</sup>“When you pray, do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They want to be seen by others. What I’m about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward. <sup>6</sup>“When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can’t be seen. He will reward you. Your Father sees what is done secretly.

5. Why would it not be wrong for you to bow your head and say a prayer before you would eat a meal?

#### A Warning Against Thoughtless Prayers

Read 6:7-8: <sup>7</sup>“When you pray, do not keep talking on and on the way ungodly people do. They think they will be heard because they talk a lot. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask him.

6. Why is it not wrong to say the same prayer (e.g., the Lord’s Prayer) over and over again?

#### The Lord’s Prayer – the Prayer the Lord Has Taught Us

Read 6:9-13: <sup>9</sup>“This is how you should pray. “Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. <sup>10</sup>May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. <sup>13</sup>Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.”

7. Why should we be more concerned in our prayers about our spiritual needs than about our physical needs?

## We Need a Right Relationship With Our God

Read 6:14-15: <sup>14</sup>“Forgive people when they sin against you. If you do, your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive people their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

8. Why does Jesus expand on the issue of forgiveness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why should we not expect God’s forgiveness if we have not forgiven others their sins?

## DON’T GET A BIG HEAD WHEN YOU WORSHIP YOUR GOD Matthew 6:16-18

### Look at the Practice of Fasting

Read 6:16-18: <sup>16</sup>“When you go without eating, do not look gloomy like those who only pretend to be holy. They make their faces very sad. They want to show people they are fasting. What I’m about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward. <sup>17</sup>“But when you go without eating, put olive oil on your head. Wash your face. <sup>18</sup>Then others will not know that you are fasting. Only your Father, who can’t be seen, will know it. He will reward you. Your Father sees what is done secretly.

10. If the Lord does not require that we fast, why would a person want to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Would you ever consider fasting? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What have you learned from this lesson on Christian love?



# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 5

### How Should I Handle Worries in My Life? – Matthew 6:19-34

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

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## **BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS AND GREED**

### **Matthew 6:19-24**

#### **Resist the Temptation to Make Earthly Treasures Your God**

Read 6:19: <sup>19</sup>*“Do not put away riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them.*

Jesus is not discouraging us from working for a living or saving for the future, but he is warning us not to place an unwarranted value on earthly things. Doing so gives a person a false sense of security.

13. What earthly things have been most important to you in the past?

14. On the basis of Jesus’ words should you look at those things differently today?

#### **Look to Your God for Heavenly Treasures**

Read 6:20-21: <sup>20</sup>*Instead, put away riches for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. <sup>21</sup>Your heart will be where your riches are.*

15. Why can loving the things of this world be called idolatry?

## **We Need to Have True Spiritual Eyesight**

Read 6:22-23: <sup>22</sup>“The eye is like a lamp for the body. Suppose your eyes are good. Then your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But suppose your eyes are bad. Then your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light inside you is darkness, then it is very dark!

16. On the basis of these two verses why is Bible study so important for the Christian?

## **We Cannot Serve Two Masters**

Read 6:24: <sup>24</sup>“No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and Money at the same time.

17. Why is it not wrong to work for money and to save money?

## **AVOID ANXIETY AND WORRY**

### **Matthew 6:25-32**

## **Worrying Shows a Lack of Trust in God.**

Read 6:25-26: <sup>25</sup>“I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things for the body than clothes? <sup>26</sup>“Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?

18. Why can anxiety and worry be considered weaknesses of faith?

19. Why do we have to work if God says he will take care of our needs?

## **Worrying Produces Nothing of Benefit**

Read 6:27-30: <sup>27</sup>“Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying? <sup>28</sup>“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They don't work or make clothing. <sup>29</sup>But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all of his glory was dressed like one of those flowers. <sup>30</sup>“If that is how God dresses the wild grass, won't he dress you even better? After all, the grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. Your faith is so small!

20. Jesus says we cannot “add even one hour” to our lives. How might worry shorten our lives?

21. Since Jesus says, “Your faith is so small,” how might our faith be strengthened?

### **Worrying Reflects Worldliness**

Read 6:31-32: <sup>31</sup>“So don’t worry. Don’t say, ‘What will we eat?’ Or, ‘What will we drink?’ Or, ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them.

22. How is the Lord taking care of your daily needs right now?

## **PURSUE THE WAY TO HEAVEN**

### **Matthew 6:33-34**

### **God Promises to be With Us**

Read 6:33: <sup>33</sup>“But put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.

23. How can you make sure that you are putting God’s Kingdom first in your life?

24. Why will the Lord not give us all the things we ask him for, even if we are doing what he wants us to do?

### **A Final Warning to Avoid Worry**

Read 6:34: <sup>34</sup>“So don’t worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

25. How will “tomorrow...worry about itself?”

26. What is the difference between concern and worry?

27. What have you learned from this lesson about worry?



# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 6

### What About the Golden Rule – Do Unto Others? – Matthew 7:1-12

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

**INTRODUCTION:** The Sermon on the Mount was directed primarily to his disciples (and, therefore, to us as his believers today). (Verses 1-2: *<sup>1</sup>Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to teach them.*) The first sixteen verses of this chapter serve as an introduction to the entire sermon. In this portion of the sermon Jesus talks about judging and criticizing others and how we should apply the Golden Rule.

## BE FAIR WHEN YOU JUDGE OTHERS

### Matthew 7:1-5

#### The Sin of Judging

Read 7:1-2: *<sup>1</sup>“Do not judge others. Then you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup>You will be judged in the same way you judge others. You will be measured in the same way you measure others.*

Jesus is here speaking of making judgments that only God can make – judging the heart and judging motives.

1. When would it be appropriate to judge?

#### The Hypocrisy of Judging

Read 7:3-5: *<sup>3</sup> “You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend’s eye. But you pay no attention to the piece of wood in your own eye. <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your friend, ‘Let me take the bit of sawdust out of your eye?’ How can you say this while there is a piece of wood in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> “You pretender! First take the piece of wood out of your own eye. Then you will be able to see clearly to take the bit of sawdust out of your friend’s eye.*

2. How do we take the bit of sawdust out of our eye?

## COUNSELING ON THE USE OF GOD'S WORD

### Matthew 7:6

Read 7:6: <sup>6</sup>*“Do not give holy things to dogs. Do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they might walk all over them. Then they might turn around and tear you to pieces.* The Gospel (“holy things...pearls”) is not to be offered to those (“dogs...pigs”) who have repeatedly rejected God’s call to repentance and faith. They might use it to fight against the very things you are proclaiming.

3. Why do unbelievers become so defensive in their opposition to the Gospel of Christ?

## THE ASSURANCE THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

### Matthew 7:7-11

#### **God Commands us to Pray and Promises to Hear**

Read 7:7-8: <sup>7</sup>*“Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>Everyone who asks will receive. He who searches will find. The door will be opened to the one who knocks.*

The words here indicate that we are to keep on asking, keep on searching, and keep on knocking. The Lord wants us to be persistent in prayer and he assures us he will answer.

4. Why should we not expect an answer if we pray with a doubting heart?

5. Why is it so difficult for us to be persistent in prayer?

#### **We Pray as Children Asking their Father**

Read 7:9-11: <sup>9</sup>*“Suppose your son asks for bread. Which of you will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or suppose he asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup>Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

Jesus uses an extreme contrast to illustrate how much he loves us – loves us so much that he was willing to allow his Son to die for us that we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven. He does this even though we are “evil,” that is, we have our sinful nature that needs that forgiveness.

6. What is the best gift that God gives us?... that you give your children?

7. If you son wanted a new Corvette for his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday why might you not give it to him (even if you could afford it)?

8. Why doesn't God give us everything we ask for at the time we ask for it?

## **THE GOLDEN RULE**

### **Matthew 7:12**

Read 7:12: <sup>12</sup>*"In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets.*

As believers we need to remember that we can do good only as God's love for us moves us to love and show love for others. We don't do good to others with the selfish motive of getting others to do good to us, but rather we do good in a way that we would want others to treat us in similar circumstances. The example of the right kind of love is shown in God's Word.

9. Why is it difficult for the Christian to put the Golden Rule into practice?

10. Why is it necessary for the Christian to be studying the Bible regularly?

11. What have you learned in this lesson about the Golden Rule?



# BIBLE STUDY – CHRIST’S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## LESSON 7

### How Should I Respond When Jesus Says, “Follow Me”? Mt. 7:13-27

**OPENING PRAYER:** *O Lord, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in your holy Word. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and open our understanding that we not only know you as Lord and Savior but that we also live as your children every day of our lives. In your name we ask it. Amen.*

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### THE LARGE AND SMALL GATES

#### Matthew 7:13-14

Read 7:13-14: <sup>13</sup>“Enter God’s kingdom through the narrow gate. The gate is large and the road is wide that lead to death and hell. Many people go that way. <sup>14</sup>But the gate is small and the road is narrow that lead to life. Only a few people find it.

1. What does Jesus mean when he says only a few people find the narrow way that leads to life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why wouldn’t everyone want to go to heaven after they die?

### A TREE AND ITS FRUIT

#### Matthew 7:15-23

#### False Teachers Can Be Deceptive

Read 7:15: <sup>15</sup>“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you pretending to be sheep. But on the inside they are hungry wolves.

3. Why is the message of a false prophet so dangerous?

## False Teachers Are Recognized By Their Fruits

Read 7:16-18, 20: <sup>16</sup>You can tell what they really are by what they do. “Do people pick grapes from bushes? Do they pick figs from thorns? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit. But a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree can’t bear bad fruit. And a bad tree can’t bear good fruit... <sup>20</sup>You can tell each tree by its fruit.”

4. How do we examine the “fruit” of one who is claiming to preach the gospel?

## False Teachers Are To Be Dealt With As Imposters

Read 7:19: <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down. It is thrown into the fire.

5. If the false prophet is “cut down” in God’s judgment what about those who follow the false prophet?

## False Teachers Are Not Acknowledged By The Lord Of The Church

Read 7:21-23: <sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do what my Father in heaven wants will enter. <sup>22</sup>“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord! Lord! Didn’t we prophesy in your name? Didn’t we drive out demons in your name? Didn’t we do many miracles in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them clearly, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who do evil!’

6. What is the relationship between following God’s Word and following human reason?

7. What does it mean to “do what my Father in heaven wants?”

8. What is “that day” of which Jesus is speaking?

9. Why doesn’t the Christian have to be afraid to die and face the Lord?

# THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

## Matthew 7:24-27

### **Build On A Strong Foundation**

Read 7:24-25: <sup>24</sup>“So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock.

10. How can we as Christians withstand all of the temptations of the devil, of the sinful world in which we live, and of our own sinful flesh?

11. What is the “rock” on which we are to build our lives?

### **Building Without Christ Will Result In Destruction And Disaster**

Read 7:26-27: <sup>26</sup>“But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.”

11. Why is faith in Christ and a life grounded in Christ so important?

12. Will God really send those who reject him to spend an eternity in hell, separated from him? Explain.

Read 7:28: <sup>28</sup>Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching. <sup>29</sup>He taught like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of the law.

13. What difference will this study of the Sermon on the Mount make in your life?

